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CULTURAL *Narratives*,
PROCESSES &
strategies
representations
OF age and AGING

3rd ENAS Conference

1st Joint ENAS & NANAS Conference

9th International Symposium
on Cultural Gerontology



Aging Graz 2017

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Rear friends and colleagues, It is our great pleasure to welcome you to Graz for the 3rd ENAS conference, the 1st joint ENAS & NANAS conference, and the 9th International Symposium on Cultural Gerontology!

Aging Studies, apart from their research relevance, have an immediate social, political and cultural significance in an aging global world susceptible to enormous demographic changes. The aging population becomes a focus in discussing social, political and cultural issues, and the study of age and aging becomes one of the crucial topics in academic and scholarly investigation.

The question how age is mediated in our culture is related to a semantics of form. The 'narrative turn' has affected the theoretical foundations of both the humanities and the life sciences. History, story-telling and images of aging are linked by narrative genres that are invested with cultural meanings.

How do we understand age and aging? How do different academic disciplines think of the aging process? Which cultural narratives and cultural agents is age shaped by? What are the frontiers of our imagining of age, and how can we transgress and transform them? How are age, body, and space interrelated? What are the processes of identity construction linked to age in everyday life, and how do forms of cultural expression such as

popular media or technology relate to them? Which methodologies can be developed for interdisciplinary and intersectional research when looking at age/aging and the life course?

The AgingGraz2017 conference aims at linking different research approaches and theories to the emerging fields of Aging Studies and Cultural Gerontology. Re-conceptualizing traditional approaches in different academic disciplines – anthropology, economics, history, language and literature, media studies, medicine, philosophy, politics, psychology, theology, sociology – the conference will welcome research into the process of age and aging in its diverse cultural and social manifestations.

More than 250 scholars and artists from over 125 universities worldwide will promote the discussion of the human aging process from both interdisciplinary and disciplinary perspectives. We have been hugely impressed by the diversity and high standard of submissions we received. In a dynamic encounter between different disciplines and diverse framings of what it means to age in our times, AgingGraz2017 will be a milestone in the academic dialogue on cultural gerontology.

At this point, I would like to express my gratitude to all those who have contributed to this conference. This event would not have been possible without many individuals who helped in organizing and preparing at every stage, and I would like to thank each of them a lot for their time, dedica-

tion, and hard work! Special thanks go to Oana Ursulesku as the head of the organizing team who coordinated all our efforts! We are also grateful for the contributions of our keynote speakers, panel organizers, session chairs, and to all our paper and poster presenters! Finally, I would also like to acknowledge our generous sponsors without whose generous financial support we would not have been able to make this conference work.

On behalf of the organizing team, I would like to welcome you to Graz and wish you an enriching, inspiring and stimulating conference!



*Ulla Kriebnernegg
Chair of the European Network in Aging Studies (ENAS)*

CONFERENCE TIMETABLE

📅 Thursday, April 27, 2017

- 7:30 Meeting point
🏠 Lobby of Hotel Weitzer, Grieskai 12-16, 8020 Graz
- 8:00 **Registration and Coffee**
🏠 Hörsaalzentrum, Medical University of Graz, Auenbruggerplatz 15, 8036 Graz
- 9:00–9:30 **Opening Speeches**
🏠 Conference Hall, Hörsaalzentrum
- 9:30–11:00 ENAS Keynote Lecture
David J. Ekerdt: **Aging in a World of Things**
🏠 Conference Hall, Hörsaalzentrum
- 11:00–11:30 Coffee
🏠 Foyer, Hörsaalzentrum
- 11:30–13:00 **Session A** (Panels 1–6)
- 13:00–14:00 Lunch Reception
🏠 Foyer, Hörsaalzentrum
- 14:00–15:30 **Session B** (Panels 7–12)
- 15:30–16:00 Coffee
🏠 Foyer, Hörsaalzentrum
- 16:00–17:30 **Session C** (Panels 13–18)

- 18:00–20:00 **Screening: Excerpts from “Piano Lessons”**
by Marlene Goldman
Food & Drink
🏠 Conference Hall, Hörsaalzentrum
- All day: **Photography exhibition**
by Alex Rotas
🏠 Foyer, Hörsaalzentrum

📅 Friday, April 28, 2017

- 8:00 Meeting point
🏠 Lobby of Hotel Weitzer
- 9:00–10:30 **Session D** (Panels 19–23)
- 10:30–11:00 Coffee sponsored by Human.technology Styria
🏠 Foyer, Hörsaalzentrum
- 11:00–12:00 NANAS Keynote Lecture:
Jane Gallop:
The Phallus and its Temporalities: Sexuality, Disability and Aging
🏠 Conference Hall, Hörsaalzentrum
- 12:00–13:30 Lunch (individual arrangement,
see restaurant list at p. 316)
- 13:30–15:00 **Session E** (Panels 24–27)
- 15:00–15:30 Coffee
🏠 Foyer, Hörsaalzentrum

15:30–16:30 Plenary Panel Discussion
Lives and Ideas:
Reflecting Voices from Age/ing Studies
 (Thomas R. Cole, Roberta Maierhofer, Stephen Katz)
 🏠 Conference Hall, Hörsaalzentrum

16:30–17:00 Coffee & Books: ENAS book presentation
 check out the ENAS infodesk
 🏠 Foyer, Hörsaalzentrum

17:00–18:30 **Session F** (Panels 28–32)
 19:30 *Student Dinner*
 (Co-hosted by ACT & GUSEGG)
 Don Roberto, Elisabethstraße 19, 8010 Graz

All day: **Photography exhibition**
 by Alex Rotas
 🏠 Foyer, Hörsaalzentrum

📅 Saturday, April 29, 2017

8:00 *Meeting point*
 🏠 Lobby of Hotel Weitzer

9:00–10:30 **Session G** (Panels 33–38)

10:30–11:00 *Coffee and Poster Presentations featured by EVI*
 🏠 Foyer, Hörsaalzentrum

11:00–12:00 ACT Keynote Lecture:
 Margaret M. Gullette:
Ageism: The Attacks, the Hurt, The Opposition
 🏠 Conference Hall, Hörsaalzentrum

12:00–13:30 *Lunch (individual arrangement,
 see restaurant list at p. 316)*

13:30–15:00 **Session H** (Panels 39–43)

15:00–15:30 *Coffee*
 🏠 Foyer, Hörsaalzentrum

15:30–17:00 **Session I** (Panels 44–49)

19:00–21:30 *Conference Reception and ENAS Prize
 for MA/PhD Thesis Award Ceremony*
 🏠 City Hall, Hauptplatz 1, 8010 Graz

All day: **Photography Exhibition**
 by Alex Rotas
 🏠 Foyer, Hörsaalzentrum

📅 Sunday, April 30, 2017

9:00–10:30 ENAS General Assembly
 🏠 Conference Hall, Hörsaalzentrum

10:30–11:00 *Coffee and Poster Presentations
 featured by EVI*
 🏠 Foyer, Hörsaalzentrum

11:00–12:30 **Session J** (Panels 50–55)

12:30–13:30 **Closing Panel** with Brown Bag Lunch
 🏠 Conference Hall, Hörsaalzentrum

13:30–15:30 *City Tour (optional)*

17:00 *Farewell Dinner (open for everyone, self-paying)*
 🏠 Glöckl Bräu, Glockenspielplatz 2–3, 8010 Graz

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

📅 Thursday, April 27, 2017

🏠 Hörsaalzentrum

Medical University of Graz, Auenbruggerplatz 15, 8036 Graz

🏠 Eingangszentrum/Kutscherwirt

Medical University of Graz, Auenbruggerplatz 2, 8036 Graz

8:00 Registration and Coffee

9:00 🏠 Conference Hall

Conference Opening

Christopher Drexler (Regional Minister for Health, Care,

Science, and Human Resources, Government of Styria)

Renate Dworczak (Vice Rector, University of Graz)

Doris Lang-Loidolt (Vice Rector, Medical University of Graz),

Lukas Meyer (Dean of the School of Humanities,

University of Graz)

Ulla Kriebnernegg (Chair of ENAS)

9:30 🏠 Conference Hall

David J. Ekerdt (University of Kansas)

ENAS Keynote Lecture:

Aging in a World of Things

(chair: Barbara Ratzenböck)

11:00 Coffee

11:30 Session A

Panel 1 🏠 SR KW 12 / ⌚ 11:30-13:00

Aging Activisms: Critical Reflections on Activist Aging Research from Canada, the United States, and Mexico

(chair: May Chazan)

Melissa Baldwin & May Chazan:

Activisms Now and Still:

Women's Activisms in the 'Apolitical' Years

Waaseyaa'sin Christine Sy:

Unsettling Aging and Activism: Reflecting on "Grandmother"

Marlene Goldman:

Performance and Bodies:

Sexperts versus the Raging Grannies

Gabriela Aceves:

Being Remembered:

Activist Archiving and the Feminist Movement in Mexico

Panel 2 🏠 SR KW 12 / ⌚ 11:30–13:00

Remembering in Place: Walking, Narrative, and the Association of Memories in Space

(chair: Matea Lacmanović)

Roberta Maierhofer:

Narratives of Exclusion and Movement in Time and Space

Carmen Zamorano Llana:

‘Season of early autumn’: From Novels of Decline to the Midlife Progress Narrative in Jennifer Johnston’s Fiction

Barbara Ratzenböck:

Let’s Move: Exploring Critical Perspectives in Aging Studies in the Context of Walking Interviews in Domestic Spaces

Panel 3 🏠 Conference Hall / ⌚ 11:30–13:00

Age on the Map

(chair: Marlene Fößl)

Dagmar Gramshammer-Hohl:

“I have to make it to Russia in time for dying”: The Closing of the Life Cycle in Russian Literature on Return from Exile

Maija Könönen:

Cultural Narratives of Old Age Senility and Ageing in Russian Contemporary Literature

Mark Schweda:

A Season to Everything? Introducing Life Course Perspectives to Bioethical Debates on Aging

Cristina Douglas:

Representing Old Age in Post-Communist Romania

Panel 4 🏠 SR B1 / ⌚ 11:30–13:00

Middle Age

(chair: Julia Henderson)

Julia Henderson:

**Generational Continuity Versus Rupture: A Comparative
Analysis of August Osage County by Tracy Letts and
4000 Miles by Amy Herzog**

Virpi Ylänné & Pirjo Nikander:

Older Parenting, Membership Categorisation and Ageing

Ofra Or:

**Israeli Midlife Women in Second Partnerships
Choosing Living Apart Together**

Panel 5 🏠 SR C1 / ⌚ 11:30–13:00

What's Up in Feminist Gerontology? Part 1:

Theorizing Gender and Sexuality in Ageing Studies

(chairs: Linn Sandberg & Barbara L. Marshall)

Linn Sandberg & Barbara Marshall:

Queering Aging Futures?

Devin McGeehan Muchmore:

"Sex is a beautiful thing until rigor mortis sets in:"

**Senior Citizenship and the Sexual Revolution
in the United States**

Sarah Jen:

Sexuality and Midlife and Older Women: Uses of Theory

Panel 6 🏠 SR C2 / ⌚ 11:30–13:00

Discrimination/Violence

(chair: Sigal Naim)

Maria Edström & Eva-Maria Svensson:

Cultural Narratives and Representations in Swedish Law and Media Regarding Age Discrimination

Susan Mary Benbow, Sarmishta Bhattacharyya, Paul Kingston:

Violence Involving Older Adults: What Can We Learn from Domestic Homicides?

Albert Banerjee:

Being Mortal: Parsing Mortality from Growing Old

13:00 🏠 Hörsaalzentrum Foyer

Lunch Reception

14:00 Session B

Panel 7 🏠 SR KW 12 / ⌚ 14:00–15:30

Ageing, Body and Society:

Critical Perspectives, Future Directions

(chairs: Wendy Martin and Julia Twigg)

Julia Twigg:

Dress, Gender and the Embodiment of Age

Sweta Rajan-Rankin:

Bodies of Colour: A Call to Decolonize Gerontology

Wendy Martin & Katy Pilcher:

Visual and Material Dimensions of Health, Risk and the Ageing Body in Everyday Life

Barbara L. Marshall:

Healthism@home: Digital Self-tracking and Embodied Ageing

Panel 8 🏠 *SR KW 21* / ⌚ *14:00–15:30*

Expanding Our Understanding of Ageing in Place

(chair: Patrik Marier)

Patrik Marier:

The Policy Challenges of Aging in Place

Nicole Macoretta:

**Creating Third Space in Community Art Studios: A Look into
Two Senior Art Making Groups in Montreal, Canada**

Marissa Singer:

**An Intergenerational Art Therapy Intervention Using Street Art
To Foster Place Attachment**

Panel 9 🏠 *Conference Hall* / ⌚ *14:00–15:30*

The Material Side of Aging: Doing Age with Things?

(chair: Lucia Artner)

Carolin Kollwe:

**Older People Caught between “Independence” and
“Helicopter Children”: Images of Old Age, Intergenerational
Relations and the Use of Assistive Technologies**

Monika Urban:

**Digital Health Technologies and the Changing Images and
Challenges of Aging**

Lucia Artner:

**On the Material and Spatial Arrangements of Institutional
Elderly Care**

Daniela Böringer & Jasmin Richter:

On the Affordance of Objects in Care

Panel 10 🏠 SR B1 / ⌚ 14:00–15:30

Intergenerations

(chair: Ieva Stončikaitė)

Mathilde Plard & Aurélien Martineau:

Exploring Successful Aging among Senior Immigrants in France: Life-course Perspective and Challenges of Discontinuity

Ľubica Voľanská:

Who Cares? Intergenerational Relationships in Families in Bratislava and Vienna as Reflected in the Autobiographical Texts

Panel 11 🏠 SR C1 / ⌚ 14:00–15:30

IT/Media I

(chair: Andreas Schuch)

Christoffer Bagger:

Elderly and IT Education – The Instructor Perspective

Roxana Barrantes & Daniela Ugarte:

Internet Appropriation among the Elderly: Challenges Posed by Informal Economies in Three Cities in Latin America

Maja Klausen:

Citizenship and Old Age in a Mediatized Denmark: Elderly People's Experiences with Mandatory Digital Communication with the Public Sector

Sigal Naim:

Facebook as a Quality of Life Technology in Old Age

Panel 12 🏠 SR C2 / ⌚ 14:00–15:30

Assistance and Care

(chair: Ofra Or)

Christine Kelly:

Crippling Care amid Policy Change: Self-managed Home Care for Older Adults in Ontario, Canada

Amelia DeFalco:

Real Humans = Real Care?:

Affective Economies and Robot Eldercare in Real Humans

Ulrike Bechtold & Leo Capari:

Social Attributions and Active Assisted Living (AAL)

Sarmishta Bhattacharyya, Susan Mary Benbow, Eve Collins:

Living and Dying Well with Dementia – A Mobile App to Improve Understanding of End of Life Care in Dementia

15:30 *Coffee break*

16:00 Session C

Panel 13 🏠 SR KW 12 / ⌚ 16:00–17:30

The Lived Neighbourhood: Understanding how People with Dementia and Their Carers Engage with Their Local Environments

(chair: Marjorie Silverman)

Kirstein Rummary & John Keady:

Towards a Social Model of Neighbourhoods? Theoretical Challenges from Dementia Research

Marjorie Silverman & Elaine Wiersma:

“We have different routes for different reasons”: The Purpose of Walks for Carers of People with Dementia

Kainde Manji, Sarah Campbell, Agneta Kullberg:

Home and Away: The Dialogue between Home and Neighbourhood in the Lives of People with Dementia and Their Carers

Andrew Clark:

Neighbourhoods as Context: Findings from an International Study of How People with Dementia Experience Neighbourhood Life

Panel 14 🏠 SR KW 21 / ⌚ 16:00–17:30

Aging in Unexpected and Everyday Places

(chair: Shannon Hebblethwaite)

Constance Lafontaine:

Probing the “Bucket List”: Overlapping Temporalities and Late-in-life Adventures

Wendy Martin:

Visualising Public and Private Space in Everyday Life

Shannon Hebblethwaite:

Grannie’s My ‘Friend’:

Facebook as a Digitally-Mediated Third Place

Panel 15 🏠 Conference Hall / ⌚ 16:00–17:30

Care Home Stories: Challenges, Changes, and Continuities

(chairs: Ulla Kriebnerneegg and Sally Chivers)

Chris Gilleard & Paul Higgs:

The Enveloping Shadow: The Contribution of the Nursing Homes to the Social Imaginary of the Fourth Age

Anne Wyatt-Brown:

Life in a CCRC: On Not Being Invisible

Sally Chivers and Ulla Kriebnerneegg:

Care Home Stories: Aging, Disability, and Long-Term Residential Care

Panel 16 🏠 SR B1 / ⌚ 16:00–17:30

Meaning Age

(chair: Susanne Katharina Christ)

Jason Danelly:

Being Together: Carer Narratives in Japan and the UK

Katharina Maria Röse:

Becoming Home in Nursing Homes for People with Dementia

Victoria Ridgway:

Visual Representations of ageing: Use of Drawings to Explore Cultural Perceptions of Older People

Panel 17 🏠 SR C1 / ⌚ 16:00–17:30

Temporality and Age

(chair: Alekszandra Rokvity)

Adrienne Chang:

Encounters with Old Age, Ageism, and Origins of Suffering in Buddhism: From Biographical Narratives to Cultural Hermeneutics

Ricca Edmondson:

Wisdom, Ageing and ‘the Light of Experience’

Daria Belostotckaia:

Psychological Outcomes of Interaction between Older People and Children Participating in the Intergenerational Program

Julia Zelikova:

Love, Sex and Loneliness in Older Age in Contemporary Russia

Panel 18 🏠 SR C2 / ⌚ 16:00–17:30

Aging and Space

(chair: Simon Edwards)

Marlene Goldman:

**From Page to Screen: Researching Alzheimer's Disease and
Filming an Adaptation of Alice Munro's "In Sight of the Lake"**

Amir Cohen-Shalev:

"Preying on the fleeting abundance":

The 'Business of the Present' in *Twilight of a Life*

Andrea von Hülsen-Esch:

The Three Ages of Man and the Materialization of an Allegory

Silke Martin & Lena Eckert:

Desire, Age and Feminism

18:00 Screening: Excerpts from *Piano Lessons* by Marlene Goldman
Food & Drinks

📅 Friday, April 28, 2017

🏠 Hörsaalzentrum

Medical University of Graz, Auenbruggerplatz 15, 8036 Graz

🏠 Eingangszentrum/Kutscherwirt

Medical University of Graz, Auenbruggerplatz 2, 8036 Graz

9:00 Session D

Panel 19 🏠 SR KW 12 / ⌚ 9:00–10:30

Dementia across Cultures and Genres

(chair: Elizabeth Barry)

Sarah Falcus & Katsura Sako:

**Dementia and Generational Time in
Contemporary Fiction in English**

Jennie Chapman:

**Interrogating the 'White Life Course': Representing Minority
Ethnic Experiences of Dementia in Contemporary American
Fiction**

Kate Averis:

The Spectre of Dementia in Annie Ernaux's *Les Années* (2008)

Raquel Medina:

**Gender and the Power of Herbs: Alzheimer's Disease as a
Feminist Metaphor in *The Good Herbs* (2011) by Maria Novaro**

Panel 20 🏠 *SR KW 21* / ⌚ *9:00–10:30*

**What's Up in Feminist Gerontology? Part 2:
Empirical Studies of Gender, Sexuality,
Embodiment and Ageing**

(chairs: Linn Sandberg & Barbara L. Marshall)

Ieva Stončikaitė:

**Exploring Sexuality in Ageing Studies:
Online or Offline Sexual Experiences?**

Dora Tadić:

**"I think in many respects we're just like another couple who
are heterosexual" – Imagined Futures of Same-sex Couples**

Cynthia Port:

**Tales for the Time Being: Entanglement, Embodiment, and
Narrative**

Panel 21 🏠 *Conference Hall* / ⌚ *9:00–10:30*

Stepping Out of Gerontology?

(chair: Iris Loffeier)

Julia Twigg & Wendy Martin:

Cultural Gerontology: Shifting the Paradigm?

Stephen Katz:

**The Biopolitics of Age Crises and Knowledge-Making in the
Public Sphere**

Cornelia Hummel, Ingrid Volery, Nathalie Burnay:

**The Kaleidoscope of the Sociology of Aging
through the Francophone Field**

Iris Loffeier, Benoît Majerus, Thibault Moulaert:

Stepping Out of Aging Studies? A Proposition of Dialog

Panel 22 🏠 SR B1 / ⌚ 9:00–10:30

Philosophy

(chair: Hamed Tayebi)

Lucie Vidovičová:

Modes of Incorporation in Study of Norms on Ageing

Anne Muench:

The Dog That Didn't Bark: The Challenge of Cross-Cultural Qualitative Research on Ageing

Panel 23 🏠 SR C1 / ⌚ 9:00–10:30

Cultural Representations of Age and Aging in Advice and Self-help Literature (chair: Claudia Stöckl)

Claudia Stöckl:

The Kind of Knowledge Spread and the Addressed/Supported Readership

Anna-Christina Kainradl:

The Representation of Personal Autonomy and Social Integration

Ingrid Enge:

The Representation of the Humane and Normative Implications

Karin Kicker-Frisinghelli:

The Representation and Evaluation of Disability and Age

10:30 *Coffee sponsored by Human.technology Styria*

11:00 🏠 *Conference Hall*
NANAS Keynote Lecture:
Jane Gallop (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee)
The Phallus and its Temporalities:
Sexuality, Disability and Aging
(chair: Cynthia Port)

12:00 *Lunch (individual arrangement; see restaurant list)*

13:30 Session E

Panel 24 🏠 *Conference Hall* / ⌚ *13:30–15:00*

Selling Age
(chair: Oana Ursulesku)

Chris Gilleard:
Imaginaries of Old Age vs. Ideologies of Ageism
Elinor Fuchs:
From the Sublime of Age to Juvenescence:
Aging According to Pfizer
Karin Lövgren:
Old Age in Advertisements for Garments
Magnus Nilsson:
A Celebration to Those that Built Society

Panel 25 🏠 *SR B1* / ⌚ *13:30–15:00*

Changes in Patterns: Literature I
(chair: Mirna Marić)

Ivana Đurić Paunović & Kristina Stevanović:
Awareness of the Illusion: Representations
of Old Age in Short Stories in Serbian
Simon Edwards:
Age Rage: Generation Wars and Neo-Realist Writing in Eng-
land at the End of the 20th Century
James Everett & Anastasiya Shchebet:
Maps and Territories: Literature and Culture in the Exploration
of Aging and the “Inward Turn”
Fergal McHugh:
Can the Concept of Late Style be Defended?

Panel 26 🏠 SR C1 / ⌚ 13:30–15:00

Recent Research in LGBT Aging

(chair: Peg Cruikshank)

Jane Traies:

Older Lesbian Lives in the UK: Redressing an Imbalance in LGBT Ageing Studies

Peg Cruikshank:

Recent US Publications in LGBT Aging

Andrew King & Mark Hughes:

Scripting the Cultural Imaginary: Representations of LGBT Ageing and Older People in Australia and the UK

Panel 27 🏠 SR C2 / ⌚ 13:30–15:00

Taking a Critical Turn in Dementia Studies

(chair: Andrea Capstick)

Linn Sandberg & Sarah Campbell:

Troubling Corporeality and Gender in Lived Experiences of Dementia and Dementia Care

Nick Jenkins:

I'd Rather Be a Cyborg than an 'Individual' with Dementia: Exploring Critical Posthumanism and Its Application to Dementia Policy and Practice

Andrea Capstick:

Reframing 'Challenging Behaviour' as Cultural Resistance: The Refusal of Bare Life in Long-term Dementia Care

15:00 ☕ *Coffee*

15:30 🏠 *Conference Hall*

Plenary Panel discussion:

Lives and Ideas: Reflecting Voices from Age/ing Studies

Thomas R. Cole, Roberta Maierhofer, Stephen Katz

(chair: Barbara Ratzenböck, moderator: Oana Ursulesku)

16:30 ☕ *Coffee*

ENAS book series “Aging Studies”:

make sure to check out the ENAS infodesk!

17:00 **Session F**

Panel 28 🏠 *SR KW 12* / ⌚ 17:00–18:30

Women/Age/Film

(chair: Ulla Kriebnernegg)

Hannah Grist:

Television as Heritage: The Politics of the Ageing Female Body in Lena Dunham's *Girls* (HBO, 2012 – present)

Hanna Varjakoski:

Imagining Later Life on Silver Screen: Aging Women in Finnish Contemporary Film

Sally Chivers:

What's Exotic about “The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel”?
Cinema, Everyday Life and Aging under Austerity

Panel 29 🏠 *SR KW 21* / ⌚ 17:00–18:30

IT/Media II

(chair: Loredana Ivan)

Sanna Kivimäki:

“Never television in the morning!” Aged Women's Strategies of Navigating in the Current Media Landscape

Dolores Castrillo:

Elderly Learners in Massive Open Online Courses: A Case Study Based on a Language MOOC

Loredana Ivan:

A Participatory Action Design to Reinforce Older People's Meanings of Computer Tasks in Digital Creation Contexts

Panel 30 🏠 Conference Hall / ⌚ 17:00–18:30

Changes in Patterns: Literature II

(chair: Anneliese Heinisch)

Elizabeth Barry:

**Genres of Ageing: Old Age, Realism and the Real
in Modern Literature**

Blossom Fondo:

Coming to Terms: Aging and Moral Regeneration in J.M. Coetzee's *Age of Iron* and *Elizabeth Costello*

Billy Gray:

**'All ages and no age': Reflections on Ageing, Memory and the
Temporality of Psychic Life in Irma Kurtz's *Then Again*: Travels
in Search of My Younger Self**

Panel 31 🏠 SR B1 / ⌚ 17:00–18:30

Biographies

(chair: Rosa Hergan)

Tiina Suopajarvi:

Ageing with the City

Andreas Schuch:

**Digital Games as a Means of Raising Awareness about Age-
ism and Gender Discrimination: Three Principles for Teachers
and Game Developers**

Panel 32 🏠 SR C1 / ⌚ 17:00–18:30

Matrices of Interpreting Age

(chair: Maricel Oró-Piqueras)

Christopher Braun:

Getting Old in Medieval Egypt: Some Remarks on Counteracting the Side Effects of Old Age in the Arabic Magical Tradition

Galit Nimrod & Liza Berdychevsky:

Strategies in Representations of Age and Aging in Older Adults' Humor

Renee Beard:

Lost in Translation: What Alzheimer's Narratives Tell Us about American Images of Aging

19:30 🏠 *Don Roberto, Elisabethstraße 19, 8010 Graz*
Student Dinner (co-hosted by ACT and GUSEGG)

📅 Saturday, April 29, 2017

🏠 Hörsaalzentrum

Medical University of Graz, Auenbruggerplatz 15, 8036 Graz

🏠 Eingangszentrum/Kutscherwirt

Medical University of Graz, Auenbruggerplatz 2, 8036 Graz

9:00 Session G

Panel 33 🏠 SR KW 12 / ⌚ 9:00–10:30

Imaging Queer Aging, Sexuality and Stereotypes

(chair: Raquel Medina)

featured by Evidence & Imagination Special Edition No. 1

Nathalie Bödicker:

**Women's Aging in a Rural Non-heterosexual Context:
Born to Suffer (Spain, 2009)**

Raquel Medina:

**Aging, Lesbianism and Heteronormativity
in the Basque Film *80 Egunean* (2010)**

Hernando Gómez Prada:

Transparent and the Catholic Subversive Aging

Panel 34 🏠 SR KW 21 / ⌚ 9:00–10:30

PERSONAL / POLITICAL / in / VISIBILITY

(chair: David-Jack Fletcher)

Naomi Woodspring:

The Personal Is Political? On the Invisibility of Older Women

Clara Overweg:

Clothing Choices by Mid-Life Women in the Creative Industries: An Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis

Emmanuelle Tulle:

In Search Of Ageing Women Mountaineers

Tarja Tapio:

“Telling their stories” as Knowledge Formation: Social Inclusion and Agency of Older Meänkieli-speaking Women in Rural Tornedalen, North Sweden

Panel 35 🏠 Conference Hall / ⌚ 9:00–10:30

New Vulnerabilities for an Ageing Society in the 21st Century

(chair: Paul Kingston)

Louise Taylor:

Scams Intervention and Health Impacts

Jan Bailey:

Scams Mass Observation Data

Charlotte Eost-Telling:

Adult Safeguarding

Panel 36 🏠 SR B1 / ⌚ 9:00–10:30

Music

(chair: Anja Hardi)

Josephine Dolan:

Mamma Mia! The Movie: Life Course Reflections and Heritage

Popular Music as Profit Making Machine

Cheryl Lester:

Cultural Alienation and Popular Music in *Young@Heart*

Zdenko Zeman, Marija Geiger Zeman, Mirela Holy:

Searching for a Younger Self: Punk Rock and Ageing Masculinities in the Novel *A Visit from the Goon Squad* by Jennifer Egan

Panel 37 🏠 SR C1 / ⌚ 9:00–10:30

Artistic Incorporations

(chair: Sandra Pfister)

Susanne Martin:

Dancing Age(ing) –

Strategies for Rethinking Age(ing) in Contemporary Dance

Valerie Lipscomb:

The Weight of Dramatic Heritage and “Desire Under the Elms”

Julie Silveira:

Reframing the Picture: The Representation of Age and Gender Identities in Feminist Art

Panel 38 🏠 SR C2 / ⌚ 9:00–10:30

Aging Women in Television Fiction

(chair: Line Nybro Petersen)

Amanda Ciafone:

Panthers and Cougars: Gray Women Take on TV in the 1980s

Anne Jerslev:

Agelessness As the New Age Appropriateness? –

Representations of the Elderly Woman

in Three Newer TV Series

Line Nybro Petersen:

**Trans-forming the Aging Body in *Grace and Frankie*
and *Transparent***

10:30 ☕ *Coffee*

🏠 Hörsaalzentrum Foyer / ⌚ 10:30

Poster Presentations

featured by Evidence & Imagination Special Edition No. 1

Susan Mary Benbow & Victoria Sharman:

Impact of Living with Dementia on Family Relationships

Carolyn Kerchof:

**Creating the Zeitgeist: How Can Media Be Used as a Tool to
Create New Societal Roles for Individuals in the Fourth
Age of Life?**

Tomoo Nakata & Masami Nakata:

Giving and Receiving Social Support in Japanese Context

Táňa Sedláková:

**Living within Limits: Challenges and Strategies of Exploring
Fourth Age**

Wendy Martin:

Visual Representations of Digital Connectivity in Everyday Life

David-Jack Fletcher:

The Problematics of 'Productive' Aging

Annette Bilfeldt & Marianne Mahler:

**Empowerment of Residents in Public Nursing Homes in
Denmark – How Can Action Research Contribute to a More
Respectful Praxis in Elder Care?**

Dirk H. Medebach:

Figurational Analysis of Dementia Representations

Silvia Zirbisegger:

Ladies on the go – and the impact of age

Claudia Ofner:

The Elderly Native American in the Welfare System

Alexandra Wunder:

**"I am never going to die": Immortality in Gary Shteyngart's
Super Sad True Love Story**

11:00 🏠 *Conference Hall*

ACT Keynote Lecture:

Margaret M. Gullette (Brandeis University):

Ageism: The Attacks, the Hurt, The Opposition

(chair: Rüdiger Kunow)

12:00 *Lunch (individual arrangement; see restaurant list)*

13:30 Session H

Panel 39 🏠 *SR KW 12* / ⌚ *13:30–15:00*

**New Representations of Aging in Literary
and Film Narratives from Brazil**

(chair: Peggy Sharpe)

Susanna Fuentes:

**“Ruas de Papel” (Paper Streets) and “Um conto de Carnaval”
(A Carnival Story) – A Poem and a Short Story about the Art of
Going into the Streets**

Lúcia Bettencourt:

“An Immodest Proposal”

Eunice Gutman:

Nunca é tarde (It’s Never Too Late):

The Art of Aging Actively – A Film by Eunice Gutman

Peggy Sharpe:

Narration, Representation, and Cultural Memory in Lúcia

Murat’s *A Memória que me contam*

Panel 40 🏠 *SR KW 21* / ⌚ *13:30–15:00*

Dementia I

(chair: Marilyn Lim)

Sinikka Vakimo:

**Exploring Conceptions of Old Age and
Dementia in Finnish Culture**

Carly McAskill:

Who Am I? Who Are You? Who Are We?

Pia Kontos, Alisa Grigorovich, Sherry L. Dupuis, Gail J. Mitchell,

Christine Jonas-Simpson, Julia Gray:

**Raising the Curtain on Dementia Stigma: Fostering a New
Cultural Imaginary for a More Inclusive Society**

Panel 41 🏠 *Conference Hall* / ⌚ *13:30–15:00*

On and On (and On):

Music, Memory, and the Performance of Age

(chair: Stephen Katz)

Line Grenier, Kim Sawchuk, Fannie Valois-Nadeau:

**Ageing With/Together: Producing 'Old' Songs as Memory Acts
at Étoile des Aînés**

Helmi Järviluoma:

**Aspects of Memory, 'Dis-placement', and Aging: A Case Study
in Musical Remembering**

Stephen Katz:

**The Greatest Band That Never Was: Rock Music,
Virtual Memory and Boomer Biographies**

Ros Jennings:

**The Soundtracks of My/Our Life/Lives: Ageing, Identity and
Remembered Music**

Panel 42 🏠 *SR B1* / ⌚ *13:30–15:00*

Ageing Beauties

(chair: Naomi Woodspring)

Naomi Woodspring:

Facing Beauty

Sukey Parnell:

Age, Face and Illusion

Josephine Dolan:

Ageing Beauties

Panel 43 🏠 SR C1 / ⌚ 13:30–15:00

Old Age Politicized

(chair: Xaver Hergenröther)

Marcela Petrová Kafková & Lucie Galčánová:

Fourth Age Identity: An Ambiguous Field

Marie-Ève Vautrin-Nadeau:

Heritagization in Quebec: Thinking the Production of Tradition Bearers Critically

James Chappel:

***Volkssolidarität* and the Cultural Heritage of Aging in 1950s East Germany**

15:00 🏠 Hörsaalzentrum Foyer

Coffee + Poster Presentations

featured by Evidence & Imagination Special Edition No. 1

(presenters: see above)

15:30 Session I

Panel 44 🏠 SR KW 12 / ⌚ 15:30–17:00

Old Age as a Work of Art

(chair: Hanne Laceulle)

Joep Dohmen:

Art of Living, Narrativity and Aging Well

Hanne Laceulle:

Authenticity and the Art of Aging

Joachim Duyndam:

Art of Aging: The Role of Exemplary Figures

Aagje Swinnen:

Mumbling Beauty: Louise Bourgeois – Portraits of the Artist as an Older Woman

Panel 45 🏠 SR KW 21 / ⌚ 15:30–17:00

**Meaning in Life and Social Connectedness
in the Ageing Process: A Humanist Perspective**

(chair: Peter Derkx)

Peter Derkx:

Meaning in Life: A Humanist View

Anja Machielse:

Meaning in Life of Socially Isolated Elderly People in a Big City

Pien Bos:

**Meaning in Life of Elderly People
in a Rural Orthodox Protestant Environment**

Wander van der Vaart:

**Data Collection Methods for Research into Meaning in Life of
Older People Receiving Long-Term Care**

Panel 46 🏠 Conference Hall / ⌚ 15:30–17:00

Feminist Gerontology

(chair: Sally Chivers)

Marija Geiger Zeman, Zdenko Zeman, Mirela Holy:

**She Is So Old and Dangerous: Witch, (Popular) Culture and
Feminist Gerontology**

Amanda Barusch:

**Cougars and Crones: Alternative Representations of Older
Women**

Maricel Oró-Piqueras & Núria Casado-Gual:

**Diane Keaton, the New 'Gerontocom' Star: A Textual Analysis
of Her Later Films and Star Persona**

Panel 47 🏠 SR B1 / ⌚ 15:30–17:00

Dementia II

(chair: Maria Sonneliehn)

Julia Gray, Pia Kontos, Sherry L. Dupuis,
Christine Jonas-Simpson, Gail J. Mitchell:

**Re-telling Dementia: Exposing the Tragedy of Dementia and
Envisioning Alternatives through Theatre**

Sarmishta Bhattacharyya, Sujoy Mukherjee, Gautam Saha,
OP Singh:

**Collaborative Working across Continents to Develop Holistic
Services for Older People in India**

Marjorie Silverman, Mark Molgat, Shari Brotman:

**Caring across Generations: The Lived Experiences and Life
Course Impacts of Young Adults Caring for Older Adults – Pre-
liminary Findings**

Paula Vasara:

**Exigencies and Choices. Narratives of Continuities, Transitions
and Turning Points on the Housing Path in Older People's Life
Course**

Panel 48 🏠 SR C1 / ⌚ 15:30–17:00

Embracing One's Own Narrative

(chair: Eva-Maria Trinkaus)

Ellen Matlok-Ziemann:

**"Blue with Age": Dis- and Dys-appearance of the Body
in Eudora Welty's "A Worn Path"**

Juanita Crider:

**"We're all getting old. Not old-old, but older:" African American
Women Embracing Aging in Contemporary Fiction**

Emma Domínguez-Rué:

**(Re)Writing History: Life Stories and Collective Identity in
Markus Zusak's *The Book Thief***

Panel 49 🏠 SR C2 / ⌚ 15:30–17:00

Reviews & Reflections

(chair: Dagmar Wallenstorfer)

Maria del Rocío González Torres:

**Revisiting Old Age Through the Eyes of the Visitor in the Novel
Liza's England by Pat Barker (1986)**

Susanne Katharina Christ:

**The Literary and Cultural Crisis of Dementia: J. Bernlef's Novel
Out of Mind (1989) as a Corrective to Medial Representations
of Dementia**

Mariángel Soláns:

**Confronting Finitude. The Life Review in *Bruno's Dream*
by Iris Murdoch**

20:30 🏠 City Hall, Hauptplatz 1, 8010 Graz

Conference Reception and ENAS Award Ceremony

📅 Sunday, April 30

9:00

🏠 Conference Hall

ENAS General Assembly

10:30

🏠 Hörsaalzentrum Foyer

Coffee and Poster Presentations

featured by Evidence & Imagination – Special Edition I

11:00

Session J

Panel 50 🏠 SR KW 12 / ⌚ 11:00–12:30

**The Contribution of the Humanities
to the Interdisciplinary Study of Ageing**

(chair: Peter Derkx)

Hyung Wook Park:

The Contribution of History

Marlene Goldman:

The Contribution of Literary Scholarship

Hanne Laceulle:

The Contribution of Philosophy

Panel 51 🏠 *SR KW 21* / ⌚ *11:00–12:30*

IT/Media III

(chair: Katharina Trinkaus)

Artemio Baigorri & Santiago Cambero Rivero:

Senior Volunteers as a New Paradigm of Aging in the Telematic Society. Case Study of AVIMEX

Anniina Lavikainen:

What Kind of Narratives Finnish Media Tells of Living with Hearing Impairment in Old Age?

Cecilie Givskov:

Media Lives of Older Women – Materiality and Ageing

Panel 52 🏠 *Conference Hall* / ⌚ *11:00–12:30*

The Significance of Creativity to Aging Well

(chair: Joachim Duyndam)

Aagje Swinnen & Kate de Medeiros:

“Play” and People Living with Dementia: A Humanities-based Inquiry of TimeSlips and the Alzheimer’s Poetry Project

Anja Machielse:

Creative Coping Strategies

Joachim Duyndam:

Creative Mimesis

Panel 53 🏠 SR B1 / ⌚ 11:00–12:30

Hags/Witches/Women

(chair: Fátima Sofía Gamper)

Brenda O'Connell:

Samuel Beckett's "Hysterical Old Hags": The Ageing Maternal Feminine in the Radio Play All That Fall

Saskia Fürst:

Mature Black Women in Contemporary US Literature, Artwork, and Print Advertisements

Marta Miquel-Baldellou:

'The stock character of a middle-aged woman?' Rediscovering *The Roman Spring of Mrs. Stone* through Age and Gender Performance

Panel 54 🏠 SR C1 / ⌚ 11:00–12:30

Contesting Narratives of Decline

(chair: Marilyn Lim)

Nuria Mina-Riera:

The Transformation of the Self-Perception of Ageing at Middle Age following Parental Loss: Two Case Studies in Poetry

Anita Wohlmann:

The Power of Figurative Language in Ageist Narratives

Jitka Ondrušková:

And if we all lived together? Responsibilization for old age and hierarchy of ageing bodies. Film representations of active ageing and dis/ability



KEYNOTES

Panel 55 🏠 SR C2 / ⌚ 11:00–12:30

Age in Series

(chair: Maria del Rocío González Torres)

Vincent Fröhlich:

Aging in Serial Perspective: Ellipsis and Process

Pamela Gravagne:

**A Posthumanist View of Life and Death as a Continuum
Through *Star Trek***

Linda Hess:

A Queer Look at Aging:

Challenging Heteronormative Narratives of the Life Course

12:30 🏠 *Conference Hall*

Closing Panel with Brown Bag Lunch

15:30 *City Tour*

17:00 🏠 *Glöckl Bräu, Glockenspielplatz 2-3, 8010 Graz*

Farewell Dinner (open for everyone, self-paying)

David Ekerdt

Aging in a World of Things

Thursday, April 27, 2017, 9:30-11:00

Researchers commonly chart the life course as a progression of intangibles, yet the life course also has an important material basis: it is enacted and embodied with things and sometimes in the service of things, possessions in particular. A material convoy of possessions accompanies social actors from cradle to grave, and the materiality of these things necessitates labour on their behalf. In later life, the convoy has added characteristics: it is an accumulation of things that have endured and are perhaps more “sticky”; it is more challenging to accommodate; and its eventual disposition becomes a shared, social concern. The standard view, which is difficult to doubt, is that possessions cohere around a person or household and these persons’ subjectivity gives meaning to the objects. At the same time it is possible to maintain that things have a ‘material agency’ that shapes older adults’ behavior in ways unintended by human subjectivity.



I conduct research on the transitions of later life – the ways that people form and act upon expectations for the future in such settings as retirement, making final arrangements, and residential moves. These funded efforts have included quantitative analyses of the retirement process (anticipation, decision-making, adaptation, effects on health and well-being)

using secondary panel data. I have also studied retirement using qualitative methods to interview couples in home settings, and undertaken document studies that describe emerging ideologies of retirement.

My developing interest in age and consumption centers on the management of possessions in later life. This project, supported by the National Institute on Aging, studies the tasks that elders undertake for the disposition of personal possessions when they move their residence to smaller quarters in later life. This is a novel topic for gerontological inquiry that bears on numerous issues in aging research and service provision, including independence and effective functioning, self-management, housing and relocation, emotions, self-concept, and family relationships and care giving.

I am a sociologist with considerable multidisciplinary experience, having worked in medical and academic settings and edited the *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences* (1994-1997) and the four-volume *Macmillan Encyclopedia of Aging* (2002).

Jane Gallop

The Phallus and its Temporalities: Sexuality, Disability and Aging

Friday, April 28, 2017, 11:00-12:00

this talk presents a book I am currently finishing. Its title is the book's title. The focus of my book is the swath of experience that could be equally understood either as disability or as aging, the experience of what I will call late-onset disability, disability beginning in the middle years or beyond. My particular subject is how late-onset disability is lived sexually. My book will trace how late-onset disability is lived as a threat to one's sexuality and to one's gender, but the book will also trace how sexuality survives and transforms in the process, a sexuality becoming, in these older, less able subjects, more perverse from a normative standpoint, more deviant from an ageist, ableist standpoint. Taking its anti-normative audacity from queer and especially crip theory, my current work explores and celebrates the perverse sexuality of the no longer young, no longer so able.

Both late-onset disability and aging are experienced as threats to one's sexuality and to one's gender (regardless of the gender with which one identifies). This sense of impending loss, a loss tangling together gender and sexuality, can best be understood, I propose, as a form of castration anxiety. The psychoanalytic notion of castration anxiety is thus useful for thinking about how aging and late-onset disability are lived sexually.

In the standard narrative we call castration anxiety, once the phallus is lost, it is lost forever. In addition to outlining this normative temporality, my project explores other temporalities of the phallus, alternatives to the lose-it-once-and-for-all normative temporality, alternatives to the phallus's insistent relegation to the past. In addition to articulating the phallus as a temporal concept in its traditional psychoanalytic formulation, this book tracks alternative temporalities, where one could move from castration to phallus as well as in the other direction, where the lost phallus is surprisingly regained, or where the phallus might appear not only in the past but as a promising future. These alternatives participate in the promise of "queer temporality," and may even lead to queerer phalluses and less anxious castrations.

The texts I consider in this project span a range from literary fiction to academic theory. What I will present at the Graz conference is a general introduction to the book's theory, followed by material from a chapter entitled "Post-Prostate Sex," which includes a reading of Philip Roth's 2007 novel *Exit Ghost*.



Jane Gallop is Distinguished Professor of English and Comparative Literature at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where she has taught since 1990. Before that, she was Herbert S. Autrey Professor of Humanities at Rice University, where she founded the Women's Studies program. At the beginning of her career, she taught in the French Department at Miami University in Ohio (she earned a PhD in French Literature in 1976). She is the author of nine books, and nearly a hundred articles. She has written on a wide range of topics: psychoanalysis, especially the work of Jacques Lacan; French feminism; psychoanalysis and feminism; the Marquis de Sade; feminist literary criticism; pedagogy; sexual harassment; photography; queer theory; close reading. While the topics vary, her writing can be understood as the consistent application of a close reading method to theoretical texts. She has been teaching this close reading of theory to her students for the past 40 years.

Margaret Morganroth Gullette

Ageism: The Attacks, the Hurt, The Opposition

Saturday, April 29, 2017, 11:00-12:00

How much should we in age studies care about ageism? My short answer is that what is sometimes called “intersectionality” is really a means of becoming more human and empathetically open to pain. In the United States, ageism is a system of unseen suffering with sometimes deadly consequences. The ageisms, as I have started to call them, lurch into our lives (at all ages) sometimes invisibly, in academe, the capitalist economy, legal systems, the media, medical malpractice, neoliberal “scarcity”-making policies, and, in the US this March, in efforts of a Republican Congress and President trying to cut the safety nets. And ultimately, where discrimination hits home the hardest, in discourse in families and in social relations.

The center of my talk is one instance of traumatizing behavior, the affects it created, and the survivor’s post-traumatic grief, shame, and paralysis. The story is that of a 70-ish professional actor who described (in a conference like this) her experience of being identity-stripped in an acting company of younger people with whom she was going to play Lear. How does confusion affect her story-telling? How did her story affect me, one of the vicariously vulnerable?

Ending the ageisms begins by naming the agents of harm and understanding our sufferings and our resiliences. This talk ends where all liberation movements begin, with a Declaration of Grievances.



Margaret Morganroth Gullette is a cultural critic and prize-winning writer of nonfiction, an internationally known age critic, essayist, and activist. Her latest book, *Agewise: Fighting the New Ageism in America* (2011), won a 2012 Eric Hoffer Book Award. *Aged by Culture* (2004) was chosen as a “Noteworthy Book of the Year” by the Christian Science Monitor. *Declining to Decline* (1997) won the Emily Toth Award as the best feminist book on American popular culture.

Margaret’s focus on the midlife (in *Safe at Last in the Middle Years* and *Declining to Decline*) has expanded into the field of Age Studies, now institutionalized in two international networks of age scholars called NANAS and ENAS. Age, studied from childhood on, can be as powerful as studies of gender or race, by empowering people to challenge decline culture and join an anti-ageist movement.

Margaret’s essays, one the winner of the Daniel Singer Millennium Prize, are frequently cited as notable in Best American Essays. She has published in the N.Y. Times, Ms., Al Jazeera, Guardian, Nation, Boston Globe, American Scholar, American Prospect, womensenews.org; many literary quarterlies; and such journals as *Feminist Studies*, *Representations*, *Journal of the History of Sexuality*. Her work is cited by scholars and journalists and used in courses. A recipient of NEH, ACLS, and Bunting fellowships, she is a member of PEN-America. In Nicaragua, her work has helped hundreds of adults to become literate and graduate from high school.

PANEL DISCUSSION

Thomas R. Cole, Stephen Katz, Roberta Maierhofer

Lives and Ideas: Reflecting Voices from Age/ing Studies

📅 Friday, April 28, 2017 / ⌚ 15:30 - 16:30 / 🏠 Conference Hall

Moderator: Oana Ursulesku

Chair: Barbara Ratzenböck

Panelists: Thomas R. Cole, Stephen Katz, Roberta Maierhofer

this panel explores how lives and ideas in age/ing studies are intertwined, based on a moderated discussion with three scholars in the field, Thomas R. Cole, Stephen Katz and Roberta Maierhofer, who share their reflections on careers of critical, interdisciplinary, and boundary-crossing work. Panelists will be asked about what kinds of ideas came to live and breathe in new spaces of thought, while others were silenced or closed off? What were the benefits or challenges of committing to an interdisciplinary field? How did their locations and contexts become implicated in new approaches and the receptions of their work? How do they see the ongoing negotiation between gerontology and age/ing studies? And how does understanding the subjective and experiential aspects of age scholarship help us imagine the future of age/ing studies and the styles of thinking we should be advocating?



POSTER PRESENTATIONS

featured

by Evidence & Imagination

Special Edition No. 1

Susan Mary Benbow & Victoria Sharman

Impact of Living with Dementia on Family Relationships

dementia affects not only the person diagnosed with the condition but also their partner, carer/s, and family. How the person lives with the dementia will influence, and be influenced by, how their family members live with the condition. What relationship changes related to the condition are people with dementia (PwD) aware of? How do existing relationships change as the condition progresses? How do existing relationships influence the way the person, and family, lives with dementia? Existing literature about relationships and dementia mainly focuses on the impact of relationships on how people cope with the condition, rather than how family relationships change as the dementia progresses. An increased understanding of the ways in which dementia impacts on relationships might influence how care is provided to the person and their family.

We draw on information from several sources: interviews with PwD and their family members; conversations with families as part of our work as family therapists; and discussions with PwD in memory cafes.

PwD raise many themes concerning their relationships with partners, including: impact on closeness/ distance; loss of choice/ ability to make decisions for themselves; change in responsibilities. Additional themes concerning relationships with family members include: being left out/ wanting to be included; and losing control/ responsibility to adult children.

PwD are often perceptive about how their condition has influenced and changed relationships with other family members, and raise concerns regarding a range of relational issues. PwD, partners and family members may avoid potentially sensitive issues for fear of distressing one another. Memory cafes (or the equivalent), where PwD meet as a group, and individual and/or family counseling may offer opportunities to address otherwise unspoken concerns and support family relationships.

Susan Mary Benbow is Visiting Professor of Mental Health & Ageing at the Centre for Ageing Studies, University of Chester, and Director of Older Mind Matters Ltd. She writes a lot, regularly presents at regional, national and international meetings, is involved in memory clinic services, practises as a registered systemic psychotherapist, teaches a range of students, and is partner/ clinical advisor to a number of research projects. **Victoria Sharman** is a qualified counsellor with over 20 years' experience and is an accredited member of the Professional Standards Authority. She has worked within the mental health field on projects for the elderly, and in child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) in the South East of England whilst training as a systemic family psychotherapist at the Tavistock and Portman NHS Trust and KCC Foundation. Victoria trained as a supervisor with the Metanoia Institute and British Psychological Society, and has taught on counselling and psychotherapy courses in Further and Higher Education, which included student and staff counselling. V2Recovery is Victoria's own company where she supports individuals, couples and families who have a wide range of psychological and emotional needs including separation and divorce, with an emphasis on helping couples to create peaceful outcomes.

Carolyn Kerchof

Creating the Zeitgeist: How Can Media Be Used as a Tool to Create New Societal Roles for Individuals in the Fourth Age of Life?

In traditional societies, elderly people serve as storytellers, keepers of communal knowledge and preservers of tradition. Their experiences are resources for their communities to draw upon. The Zeitgeist magazine project at Alterszentrum Laubegg in Zurich, Switzerland explores possibilities of the fourth age to fill similar societal roles in a modern industrial society. Contributing to Zeitgeist the magazine is a way for elderly nursing home residents to develop such roles as those above and (re)engage. By working together on stories and spreads, young and old participants develop understanding for one another and form social bonds. The Zeitgeist methods for collaborative biographical writing allow participants who can no longer physically write to be able to dictate and revise with young writers, and together to find meaning in their life stories. In addition, the strong positive resonance that the project has generated has raised participants' sense of self-worth and given some a new sense of purpose.

Tomoo Nakata & Masami Nakata

Giving and Receiving Social Support in Japanese Context

The communication design aspect is inextricably connected to the storytelling aspect of the Zeitgeist project. The rules for designing messages when it comes to communicating with elderly people, including people with forms of dementia, are largely under-researched or unknown. Part of the Zeitgeist project's mission is to discover and develop ways of communicating with elderly people and to share and publish guides for best practices.

The Zeitgeist project gives elderly people a strong, heterogeneous voice in their community and helps to broaden and diversify the discourse about very old age, which could change the way people experience it now and in the future.

Carolyn Kerchof (b. USA 1988) writes, designs and publishes in Zurich, Switzerland. She studied English (BA, George Washington University 2010) and Communication Design (MA, Zürcher Hochschule der Künste 2015). She has been honored by the Hirzel Stiftung, the Social Impact Award and the Women's Business Conference for her work on the Zeitgeist. She is a former Fulbright scholar.

The purpose of this study is to reveal traditional constraints and new trends in the giving and receiving social support between parents and their children. This study utilized data collected in Sapporo, Japan, in January 2015. Respondents to the survey were men and women from 35 to 60 years of age whose parents were still alive (n=510). This survey was conducted in Sapporo, Japan.

The dependent variable was delivery and acceptance of sentimental and tangible support for the respondents. And the independent variables consisted of basic attributes and attitude concerning family of the respondents, ADL and living arrangements of their parents.

Some young people tend to move to Sapporo, prefectural capital of Hokkaido, for work and education. Social services for the older have not developed in Japan. Therefore, the children living in the city need to care for their parents who are left behind in the rural towns and villages.

The main results of the analysis are as follows. 1) The distance to their parents' house affected giving tangible support for the respondents. 2) The relationship between mothers and their daughters seems to be very strong. 3) The interaction with parents' neighbors decrease social support from respondents.

Though supplying social support from children was based on the traditional family structure. Especially, those are based on the mother-daughter relationship. On another hand, children seem under the somewhat rational choice because care decrease by the distance of the parents' houses and interactions of the parent with the neighbors."

Tomoo Nakata is an associate professor of social survey and social statistics at the Hokusei Gakuen University, Sapporo, Japan. He received MA from Graduate School of Letters, Hokkaido University, Japan in 1988. He began to work in the current workplace in 1993 after working a private company for three years. His major is social gerontology and the development of quantitative method. He is currently interested in support relationship among rural community members as resources and the relationship between elderly people living in the rural areas and their children living in the cities. **Masami Nakata** is an associate professor of community social work at Sapporo Gakuin University, Ebetsu, Japan. She received her PhD of social work from Nihon Fukushi University, Japan in September 2010. Masami Has taught community social work and practice about social work and she is interested in social support among local residents and roles of social service professionals in rural areas.

Táňa Sedláková

Living within Limits: Challenges and Strategies of Exploring the Fourth Age

Nowadays we are witnessing the growing polarization within later life which is often divided into young-old and old-old and black-and-white depicted as a rather independent and active Third Age and a dependent and passive Fourth Age. Those older people suffering from various chronic diseases are primarily characterized as objects of care and ultimately othering as those who are living the feared state of becoming. The purpose of our poster is to bring reflection upon some challenges of qualitative research methods exploring the transition from Third to Fourth Age and to present some strategies used to capture the individual narratives lived within this transition. Based on our research experience and the existing methodologies rooted mostly in disability and child studies, we will present some innovative methods. Specifically, we will focus on the timeline technique as a possible path out of some research dilemmas. The timeline technique was used as a part of shared research diary that complemented repeated interviews with seniors and interviews with their care-takers. The assisted construction of one's later life timeline provided a graphical temporal structure against which seniors could plot their recollection of everyday events and experience. Narratively based timeline also allowed us to approach our conversation partners from the biographical and relational perspective and helped us to develop the

Wendy Martin

Visual Representations of Digital Connectivity in Everyday Life

sensitive topics of life in Fourth Age (e.g. the fears from falling, the secrets about one's body, adaptation to assistive devices) in later phases of interviews.

Táňa Sedláková is a social psychologist specialized in the field of gerontology and aging studies. In her master thesis, she illustrated some ways of creating and disseminating of social representations of aging among Czech older women. In her dissertation thesis she would like to explore the socio-cognitive aspects of the transition from Third to Fourth Age. She is a part of the aging research team at Office of Population Studies (Masaryk University, Brno) and works as a neuropsychologist in the Czech Brain Aging Study (St. Ann's Hospital, Brno). She is keen on networking gerontology students, researchers, practitioners and laymen to reflect and discuss aging issues. In her free time, she loves to discover the worlds of galleries, theaters, bookstores and publish houses.

This poster draws on data from the empirical study 'Photographing Everyday Life: Ageing, Lived Experiences, Time and Space' funded by the ESRC, UK. The focus of the project was to explore the significance of the ordinary and day-to-day and focus on the everyday meanings, lived experiences, practical activities, and social contexts in which people in mid to later life live their daily lives. The research involved a diverse sample of 62 women and men aged 50 years and over who took photographs of their different daily routines to create a weekly visual diary. This diary was then explored through in-depth photo-elicitation interviews to make visible the rhythms, patterns and meanings that underlie habitual and routinised everyday worlds. The data was analysed using the software Atlas Ti. The analysis highlighted: (1) the increasing importance of digital connectivity and the ways in which people in mid to later life actively engage (and resist) technologies of communication in their daily lives; (2) the significance of embodied co-presence and the immediacy of shared space and/or time; and (3) how narratives surrounding engagement (or not) with virtual technologies both challenge and reinforce ideas about ageing (and youth) in complex and, at times, contradictory ways. Exploring the routines, meanings, and patterns that underpin everyday life has therefore enabled us to make visible how people build, maintain and experience

their social and virtual connections, and the ways in which digital devices and information technologies are being incorporated into (and resisted) within daily life.

Dr. Wendy Martin is a Senior Lecturer in the College of Health and Life Sciences, Brunel University London, UK. Her research focuses on ageing, embodiment and daily life and the use of visual methods in ageing research. She was Principal Investigator for the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC, UK) research project 'Photographing Everyday Life: Ageing, Lived Experiences, Time and Space' and is Co-Investigator for the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) international partnership 'Ageing, Communication, Technologies (ACT): experiencing a digital world in later life'. Wendy is Co-Convenor of the British Sociological Association (BSA) 'Ageing, Body and Society' study group and is Co-Editor of the 'Routledge Handbook of Cultural Gerontology' that was published in 2015.

David-Jack Fletcher

The Problematics of 'Productive' Aging

As the global population continues to age in what has been named the 'greying' of the population, strategies and techniques for the regulation, management and maintenance of age have become normalised. Most prominent for this paper are those strategies of 'productive' aging, coined by gerontologist Robert Butler during the 1980s, which aims to not only maintain the levels of socio-cultural, political and economic productivity in older individuals, but further, aims to perpetuate discourses of youth as the ideal human state.

I argue that the discourse of productive aging – and the strategies themselves – are problematic, for the specific manners in which they produce and emphasise neoliberal ideologies of subject and identity formation. Hence, this paper explores the dynamics of Butler's notion of productive aging to reveal the problematic implications this ideology holds, not only for the elderly themselves, but also those responsible for their care.

Through the application of neoliberal theory, I focus on the ways in which productive aging strategies discursively construct aging subjects through two primary methods: firstly, by equating social and economic capital with human capital; and secondly, by perpetuating narratives that suggest we are no longer allowed to be old.

David-Jack Fletcher is currently completing his doctorate in the field of Cultural Studies, with a primary focus on the implications of anti-aging somatechnologies on notions of the human. He challenges normative assumptions of the aged body through a medicalised framework and critiques constructions of the neoliberal (non)-human subject. While his PhD project wholly focuses on age and gerontology, (soma)technologies, and discourse analysis, his other research interests include disability, posthumanism, biopolitics and governmentality.

Annette Bilfeldt & Marianne Mahler

Empowerment of Residents in Public Nursing Homes in Denmark – How Can Action Research Contribute to a More Respectful Praxis in Elder Care?

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he Context: Residents report being treated without respect towards their individual needs and perspectives and feeling socially isolated. Relatives reported that they were not listened to and that they have conflicts with the staff. Employees report feeling trapped in a negative spiral of stress due to the administrative focus on cost efficiency and standardized measurements

in public care service. The project goal was to develop a democratic and inclusive praxis for more autonomy, participation and social life for the residents and a better working life for the employees. The methods were action research with group interviews, future creating workshops, network conferences and task force groups with residents, relatives and staff. The results: The initiation of learning processes, enabling employees to respectfully engage in dialogue with residents and relatives; the involvement of residents and their relatives in decision making at all levels of nursing home life. The project led to the empowerment of residents. The project played an important role in the development of democratic knowledge

building based on the perspectives of the residents and the relatives. Thus, the contours of an alternative strategy to counter the New Public Management agenda of standardized care service has been made visible.

A conclusion may be drawn, that in spite of the challenge of power inequities between employees and residents/relatives, the project contributed to the commencement of a more ethically reflective praxis focused on the empowering of primary 'stakeholders' in nursing home daily life. Furthermore, it led to higher job satisfaction for the staff.

Annette Bilfeldt is Ph.D. and associate professor in social science and social innovation at the Department of Learning and Philosophy, Aalborg University, Cph, Denmark. She is affiliated with the Centre of Action Research and Democratic Social Change at Roskilde University in Denmark. Her research focus on innovation against social exclusion of old people. Her research has focused on public elder care in nursing homes and social innovation about how to develop a democratic and inclusive praxis for more autonomy, participation and social life for the residents and a better working life for the employees. She is member of the European COST network Reducing Old Age Social Exclusion (ROSE). **Marianne Mahler** is Dr. in Public Health and director of Democratic Ageing, and she is affiliated with the Department of Learning and Philosophy, Aalborg University, Cph, Denmark. Her research field is healthy ageing at public nursing homes. She is doing action research in public elder care together with Annette Bilfeldt. Besides she is training care workers in dialogue and collaboration with residents and relatives.

Dirk H. Medebach

Figurational Analysis of Dementia Representations

The poster focusses popular German narrations and representations of dementia and AD. The proposed analytical access is based on the sociological studies and theories of Norbert Elias. By analysing social figurations as interdependent social networks of humans with their changing We-I- and power balances, coherent thinking of social, historical and psychological processes is of great importance. Thus, starting from personal narrations and (auto-)biographical material, the figurational approach with further theoretical aspects like involvement and detachment lead us to knowledge about emotions, (dis-)integration and changing social relations in families, between public and private and so on. The questions behind are: What do narrations tell us about the social embedding of and the (re-)actions to dementia? In addition to what we could learn about our society as a whole? Of course, the suggested methodology is particularly suitable for a transdisciplinary reflection of aging processes and dementia phenomena.

Dirk H. Medebach is a research and teaching assistant at the professorship of sociology with a focus on general comparative studies (Prof. Langenohl) and doctoral student at Justus-Liebig-University (JLU) Giessen, Germany **2015-2016:** Project “Sexualised violence in educational contexts”, Dean's office of department 03: Social Sciences and Cultural Studies, JLU) and Project “City life and Experiences: Starting your Studies with Urban research learning” („Stadt(er)leben zum Studieneinstieg“), Co-project manager, JLU. **Since 2015:** Founder member and head of the working group “Age(ing) in Society” („Alter(n) in Gesellschaft“), Giessen Graduate Centre for Social Sciences, Business, Economics and Law (GGS); **2013:** Lecturer at Professorship of environmental and economic sociology (Dr. Jetzkowitz) at Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany, and Management team member at Marburg-Giessen-Cooperation-Project for the application of Germany Research Foundation SFB/TR 138 “Dynamics of Security” (Prof. Carl and Prof. Kampmann); **2002–2010:** Studies in sociology, sciences of law, political sciences and psychology at JLU, Giessen and Johannes-Gutenberg-University, Mainz, Magister Artium.

Alexandra Wunder

“I am never going to die” – Immortality in Gary Shteyngart’s Super Sad True Love Story (2010)

Due to numerous negative stereotypes associated with old age, the fear of getting old is widespread in society and inextricably linked to the longing for an extended life. This desire has fuelled research in the field of biogerontology, which deals with aging's causes, effects and mechanisms. A common position is that aging is considered a disease that can be cured. In his dystopian novel *Super Sad True Love Story* (2010), Gary Shteyngart caricaturizes current research in the field of biogerontology. Shteyngart expresses his social criticism through the fixation of his characters with longevity, youth, and beauty, drawing a rather negative picture of America in the future. He also highlights moral dilemmas associated with immortality.

Alexandra Wunder is a student at the University of Graz. She is currently studying for a Bachelor's degree in English and American studies, and has put her research focus on literature. Additionally, she is about to complete the master's program Ecology and Evolution. Her main field of research is population genetics.

Claudia Ofner

The Elderly Native American in the Well-fare System

This poster analyzes the condition of the elderly Native American population in the US and Canada, and accessibility of the American well-fare programs for the Native American population. It will discuss important issues, such as the limited benefit services for the Native American population, and the accessibility of Medicaid and Medicare and health care facilities. Therefore, the analysis focuses on the governmental benefits provided for the elderly Native American population and the aims of improvement of the National Indian Council on Aging (NICOA).

Claudia Ofner is a student of the English and American Studies Bachelor Program at the University of Graz. She is currently writing her Bachelor thesis on Native Americans in borderlands. Furthermore, she is also a student of Archaeology and is interested in US-American literature.

Silvia Zirbisegger

Ladies on the go – and the impact of age

This poster presentation analyzes the influence of age by comparison of the movies *Thelma and Louise* (1991) and *Cloudburst* (2011), due to the fact that both movies are road movies and there is a strong notion of freedom. Moreover, both movies contain two female starring roles, as well as one young male character. It will discuss important facts, such as that *Thelma and Louise* are middle-aged women, whereas *Stella and Dotty* are elderly women and the reason for traveling. The difference in age may be very helpful when analyzing the different struggles of the heroines.

Silvia Zirbisegger is an undergraduate student of English and American Studies at the University of Graz.

PANEL PRESENTATIONS

Session A

Panel 1

Aging Activisms: Critical Reflections on Activist Aging Research from Canada, the United States, and Mexico

📅 Thursday, April 27 / ⌚ 11:30–13:00 / 🏠 SR KW 12

Chair: May Chazan

Participants: Melissa Baldwin, May Chazan, Waaseyaa'sin
Christine Sy, Marlene Goldman, Gabriela Aceves

this panel brings together feminist research and scholarly reflections on the theme of activist aging, exploring how such powerful, interlocking forms of difference as gender, class, skin colour, ability, ethnicity, sexuality, and indigeneity shape meanings and experiences of both aging and activism. Panelists engage in critical conversations around the diverse and shifting ways older people – predominantly older women – work for social change in later life. They also ask how women of different backgrounds, ages, and abilities are engaging in social change work across different movements and throughout their lives. By focusing on the theme of activist aging, these papers provide analyses of how age and aging influence who is (and is not) rendered visible within social movements and whose stories are (and are not) remembered.

The panel is organized around four interrelated themes: (1) activism now and still; (2) unsettling aging and activism; (3) performance and bodies; and (4) being remembered. These four themes collectively address gaps in research around aging and activism. The first theme, “activism now and still,” highlights the diverse trajectories of politicization throughout the life course, emphasizing the past and present contributions of elder activists. The second theme, “unsettling aging and activism,” speaks to the diverse meanings and practices associated with activist aging, drawing attention to how different knowledge systems, experiences, and languages can function to value or devalue different social change efforts. The third theme, “performance and bodies”, unpacks the various ways in which women are reclaiming and mobilizing their aging bodies as part of their activist prac-

tices. Finally, “being remembered” underscores the many ways in which women are seeking to challenge their invisibility in the public record and stake out their places in history.

This panel ultimately seeks to deepen existing understandings of aging women as agents of change, by rendering visible their bodies, their methods, their stories, and their resistance. Through a combination of formal conference papers and media presentations, panelists challenge assumptions of activism as the domain of youth and stereotypes of the passive “little old lady.” They also contest dominant societal narratives of “active aging,” which tie value in later life to exaggerated levels of economic and physical activity, positing “activist aging” as a meaningful and much more radical alternative for many older women.

Melissa Baldwin

Activisms Now and Still: Women's Activisms in the 'Apolitical' Years

This paper challenges dominant narratives about women's activisms, destabilizing assumptions that both motherhood and grand-motherhood are apolitical phases in women's lives. While feminist scholars have brought attention to the diverse ways motherhood and activisms interact, fewer scholars have analyzed the dynamics between grandmotherhood and activisms. Based on 35 life histories generated with older women from across North America, this paper examines women's social justice efforts across their life courses. It reveals insights into how socio-political and personal contexts shape the ways in which women construct (grand)motherhood and practice social change work. Far from considering motherhood as a time of retreat from political struggle, participants describe how, as mothers, their activism became intertwined with their personal circumstances. They likewise portray grandmotherhood, not as a period of decline but as a time of new and renewed engagement with social change. Unlike their earlier activisms, though, their later-life engagement was less interwoven with their own struggles. Further, many strategically mobilize grandmotherhood as a means of legitimizing their efforts, whereas they did not previously deploy motherhood in political ways. The paper thus will contribute an important aging lens, challenging simplistic assumptions about the supposedly disengaged nature of (grand)motherhood, while providing a nuanced analysis of the continuities

and changes in women's social change work across their lives. In this way, the paper will contextualize the panel's larger discussion of activist aging within a life course framework.

Melissa Baldwin is a graduate student at the Frost Centre for Canadian and Indigenous Studies at Trent University. Her research looks at the roles of slam poetry in fostering intergenerational and inter-movement solidarities for social change in the Peterborough community. She also co-hosts a radio show called Aging Radically on Trent Community Radio, creating spaces for intergenerational conversations about activism across women's lives. A promising emerging scholar, musician, and activist, Baldwin had the opportunity to explore critical aging studies at an international summer school in Austria in 2015, and she has been awarded prestigious SSHRC and Ontario Graduate Scholarships in support of her graduate work. She has worked as a research assistant to Chazan since 2012, co-authoring several journal articles and conference papers with her over this time.

Waaseyaa'sin Christine Sy

Unsettling Aging and Activism: Reflecting on “Grandmother”

In this media presentation, Waaseyaa'sin Christine Sy, Anishinaabe academic, writer, and poet, reflects on how different knowledge systems, experiences, and languages can function to value or devalue older women's social change efforts. The presentation includes a reading of her poem “Grandmother.” In her words: “As a granddaughter, I birthed “Grandmother” in a city in Anishinaabe territory. It is born of Anishinaabe thought, kinship ties, and relationships with humans and the natural world. This poem is at once an attempt to heal from wounds inflicted by grandmothers who were once children in residential schools through understanding of their trauma and an honouring of all her skills and abilities – her ways of injecting life, love, and beauty into the word through her hard labour and talents. It is a subversive disruption of the modern phenomenon of constructing infallible “Elders” in Indigenous-non-Indigenous networks of relationships. A reminder that she has a dark side too, which she may be held accountable for through her relations, but through which we must never diminish the honour and dignity that are hers, by virtue of being mindimoyen – one who carries the world. “Grandmother” is a pining for the safety and quietude in the space of Anishinaabe women's labour and an offering back of it to her – an offering that recognizes her full humanity and cherishes her for it.” Together, Sy's poem and her critical reflections function to unsettle the panel's assumptions about

what roles (older) women play in social change. The presentation brings a decolonizing gaze to the activisms discussed, recognizing that these have taken place in the North American context, on the unceded lands of the continent's First Peoples, at a time when there has yet to be a full and just decolonizing process.

Waaseyaa'sin Christine Sy is Anishinaabe of mixed ancestry from Lac Seul First Nation and Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. She is a mother, an Anishinaabe language learner, and is actively engaged in learning about sustenance land-based practices in her Anishinaabe homelands. Waaseyaa'sin has won awards for poetry, short story (fiction), and academic writing. She is the blog-author of “Anishinaabewiziwin” and a lecturer in Gender Studies at the University of Victoria. Her Ph.D. research examines historical and Anishinaabe knowledges about womyn's relationship with the sugar bush, and theorize this for a contemporary and future practice of land (re)matriation.

Marlene Goldman

Performance and Bodies: Sexperts versus the Raging Grannies

Sigmund Freud once said to Marie Bonaparte, “The great question that has never been answered, and which I have not yet been able to answer, despite my thirty years of research into the feminine soul, is ‘What does a woman want?’”. Although privately Freud professed confusion, in public he infamously proposed that a woman – in fact, all women – wants a penis. The authors cite Freud’s views concerning female desire in reference to a performance by the Raging Grannies – a well-known North American network of older women activists who draw heavily on satirical songs and ironic performances of grandmotherhood in their activism – which she attended in 2015. In addition to singing several satirical political songs, the Raging Grannies performed a ditty entitled “Geriatric Sexpot.” This song, which chronicles the “experts’” views concerning women’s sexuality from ages 60 to 100, gently mocks the suggestion that experts can speak about women’s desire authoritatively, as if desire remains constant over time and there is only one universal “woman” under consideration. This paper contextualizes this satirical response to the sexualization of older women’s bodies in light of the Raging Grannies’ ongoing political activism and the increasingly reified stereotypes of zoomer/active elders. It demonstrates how the Raging Grannies subvert the experts’ discourses through a series of playful embodied techniques, focusing on how the performance of “Geriatric Sex” mobilizes

theatrical techniques to level its critique of the so-called experts who would presume to tell society what “a woman” wants. The song mocks, but never corrects, these “experts,” thereby allowing for the continued veiling of women’s desires. Ultimately, the combination of irony and veiling successfully resists reductive attempts to transform older women into a singular body of knowledge or object of scrutiny.

Marlene Goldman is a professor in the Department of English at the University of Toronto. She is the author of *Paths of Desire* (University of Toronto, 1997), *Rewriting Apocalypse* (McGill-Queen’s, 2005), and *(Dis)Possession* (McGill-Queen’s, 2011). She recently completed a book entitled *Forgotten: Age-Related Dementia and Alzheimer’s in Canadian Literature*. Her work currently entails leaving the ivory tower and becoming a catalyst for changing the public’s gothic approach to dementia. More precisely, with the aid of an Insight Grant from SSHRC, she is currently exploring the possibility of using film as a means of transforming the public’s perception of people with dementia.

Gabriela Aceves Sepúlveda

Being Remembered: Activist Archiving and the Feminist Movement in Mexico

this paper examines how Ana Victoria Jiménez, an activist with the Mexican feminist movement, archived her resistance from 1964 to 2010. Jiménez became politically active in the early 1960s when she joined the Mexican Communist Youth Leagues and soon after the Union Nacional de Mujeres Mexicanas (UNMM), a group of women affiliated with the Mexican Communist Party. Throughout the 1970s, she joined second wave feminist demonstrations, documenting them through photography and art. By the mid-1980s, as these demonstrations gave way to other forms of women's social activism, Jiménez continued to document many of these and other important events. Drawing from interviews and archival documentation, this paper discusses how her archival practice shaped her political subjectivity and how the dynamic of age and aging has informed both her archiving and her social activism over the course of four decades. It reveals both the power of her daily acts of recording and keeping documentation of her activism and the importance of institutionalizing her one-of-a-kind collection of ephemera and photographs (in 2010), which commemorates several decades of feminist demonstrations. Thus, this paper analyses how, through her archival agency, Jiménez resisted erasure from historical narratives, and also demonstrates how her archival practice was, itself, a form of activism carried out across her life course.

Gabriela Aceves Sepúlveda is a faculty member in the School of Interdisciplinary Arts and Technology at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver. She is an interdisciplinary media artist and cultural historian with a research focus on feminist media and contemporary art and design history and practice. Working at the intersections of video and performance, she uses video and multimedia installations to explore the social, political, and cultural structures that shape our sense of self. Her research on the role of feminism(s) in the development of Mexico's mediascapes after 1968 was awarded the John Bullen Prize. Aceves has been a board member of various artist-run centres, including CAFKA (Kitchener-Waterloo, 2001-2004), ACCESS Gallery (Vancouver, 2005-2007), and VIVO MEDIA ARTS (Vancouver, 2014-present). Before pursuing an academic career, she spent more than 10 years in the design industry working as a senior designer and creative consultant, specializing in editorial and print design.

Panel 2

Remembering in Place: Walking, Narrative, and the Association of Memories in Space

📅 Thursday, April 27 / ⌚ 11:30–13:00 / 🏠 SR KW 12

Chair: *Matea Lacmanović*

Participants: *Roberta Maierhofer, Carmen Zamorano Llana,
Barbara Ratzenböck*

this panel explores the movement and narrative drive of the remembering body through space. Each paper is concerned with representations of the wandering body and the wondering mind, into the spaces of memory. While, at first glance, these spaces and memories may appear to be connected solely with the wanderer/wonderer's individual identity, upon closer examination it becomes clear that both the spaces of memory and the memories associated with them are intimately entwined with collective identity and cultural memory. In his discussion of the literature of place and environment, Axel Goodbody summarises Aleida Assman's identification of "texts, images, the body and

places as the four principal media through which memories and identity are anchored in cultural memory." In his elaboration of the relationship between place and cultural memory, Goodbody adopts Assmann's argument in order to stress the ways in which "lingering material traces ... constitute physical links mediating between present and past." Walking is a key methodology in the identification, and narrativization, of material and other links between the present and the past. As such, each of the papers on this panel explores a different example of the ways in which the walker makes sense of individual and collective identities – past and present – via the movement of the body and associated encounters in space.

Roberta Maierhofer

Narratives of Exclusion and Movement in Time and Space

Representations of physical movement are important cultural narratives expressing issues and concerns of postmodern identity. In my contribution, I will investigate narratives of movement and changing of place as an existential expression of the experience of time and memory, and how by the narration of these experiences an escape can be enabled – to use Bauman’s words – from the limits that each society sets to “life strategies that can be imagined.” By juxtaposing Vilém Flusser’s concept of the expelled and Zygmunt Bauman’s notions of pilgrim, stroller, vagabond, and tourist, I will investigate movements through space and time within a life course as expressions of conscious acts of appropriation. Processes of temporary and permanent exclusion (and possible inclusion) can be re-defined as normative human experience where transcendence and impermanence are recognized as an essential human condition, expressed in the need for physical movement, but negotiated with a reflection of the past. The narrative perspective of changed spaces and strange contexts allow for an expression of the fluidity of one’s identity in past and present, and thus open up possibilities of moving beyond defined positions of self. If identity is defined by both continuity and change over a life course, the importance is to narrate one’s life in an on-going process of dialogue between the strange and the familiar.

Roberta Maierhofer is professor of American Studies at the University of Graz, Austria, Adjunct Associate Professor at the State University of New York, Binghamton, USA (since 1996), and Director of the Center for Inter-American Studies (since 2007). Her research focuses on Culture and Representation, Gender Studies, Transatlantic Cooperation in Education, Interculturality, and Age/Aging Studies. Since 2004, she has been directing various interdisciplinary and international summer schools of the University of Graz, which she established in the fields of European and Inter-American Studies.

Carmen Zamorano Llana

‘Season of early autumn’: From Novels of Decline to the Midlife Progress Narrative in Jennifer Johnston’s Fiction

Critical attention to Jennifer Johnston’s work has greatly focused on her contribution to the Big House novel, a categorization that Johnston herself has reluctantly related to. It is only in his preface to *The Essential Jennifer Johnston* (1999) that Irish author Sebastian Barry first identifies ageing as one of Johnston’s compelling identity themes in her writing. This theme has been present since her early works in various forms, and particularly the midlife development of female characters is purportedly traceable throughout her writing. In an attempt to address the lack of critical attention on Johnston’s creative interest on ageing in her fiction, my contention in this article is that this specific theme can fruitfully be analyzed in relation to what Margaret Morganroth Gullette calls “the progress narrative of the middle years” (1988: xi). In her analysis of the birth of the midlife progress narrative, Margaret Morganroth Gullette notes how one of the main ethical aspects of this new form is to rescue the characters from “a plot of depletion” so as to bring them into narratives that construct life stories as “ameliorative sequences” (xiv). The main

aim of this paper is, therefore, to analyze how the representation of female characters’ progress in their midlife has developed in Jennifer Johnston’s fiction from a dominant presence of narratives of decline, such as in the case of Constance Keating in *The Christmas Tree* (1981), to the midlife progress narratives that are more frequently found in her later fiction, as significantly represented by Steph O’Connor in *Foolish Mortals* (2007). This paper will also consider how the socio-political and cultural changes in the Irish context have contributed to this change, for, as Gullette argues, it is only such changes that come “to permit the production of midlife progress narratives” (xv).

Carmen Zamorano Llana is Associate Professor of English at Dalarna University, Sweden. She is President of the Nordic Irish Studies Network and edits the literature section of the peer-reviewed journal *Nordic Irish Studies*. Her current research interests include representations of ageing in Irish and British literature, literature and globalization, and the migrant experience in contemporary Irish and British literature.

Barbara Ratzenböck

Let's Move: Exploring Critical Perspectives in Aging Studies in the Context of Walking Interviews in Domestic Spaces

A current empirical study of the research project “Cultural Narratives of Age and Aging” investigates how women 60+ use and ascribe meaning to different kinds of media such as computers, the Internet, radio, or TV. One of the methods employed in this study are walking interviews conducted in the homes of the women participating in the study. This presentation addresses the question of how the walking interview in the home can support the exploration of critical perspectives in Aging Studies, such as the notion of agency or the simultaneity of continuity and change in life course experiences. During the walking interviews in the homes of the participants, interviewees and researcher enter into a conversation about various media devices on site and how these technologies and meanings ascribed to them have changed over the life course. Compared to more classical interview formats, walking interviews in homes allow for less-hierarchical and different ways of story-telling by interviewees since they – and not the researcher – lead the way through the home and the narratives on media use. By moving through

different rooms of the home and by interacting with media devices, participants simultaneously move through different memories and related stories on what it means to live and age in a mediatized world. In other words, they move through their media biographies. This movement in space and in memory allows interviewees to express complex interrelations of continuities and changes in media use across the life course and highlights their agency in shaping their media experiences and stories about them. Thus, this presentation argues, walking interviews in homes can help to “critique the practices by which current forms of knowledge and power about aging have assumed their authority as a form of truth” (Katz, 2014).

Barbara Ratzenböck is a PhD candidate at the Center for Inter-American Studies of the University of Graz. Her PhD project focuses on women aged 60+ and their use of information and communication technologies. Since October 2015, she has also been serving as Executive Director of the European Network in Aging Studies (ENAS). Her research interests include Aging Studies, qualitative research methods, and cultural sociology.



Panel 3

Age on the Map

📅 Thursday, April 27 / ⌚ 11:30–13:00 / 🏠 Conference Hall

Chair: *Marlene Föβl*

Participants: *Dagmar Gramshammer-Hohl, Maija Könönen,
Mark Schweda, Cristina Douglas*

Dagmar Gramshammer-Hohl

“I have to make it to Russia in time for dying”: The Closing of the Life Cycle in Russian Literature on Return from Exile

the discontinuity of life experienced through exile and return, is often displayed in literature in terms of age and aging. In narratives of exile and return, the spatial and the temporal become intertwined: the loss of home, the feeling of strangeness and self-estrangement articulate themselves through another experience of alterity, namely the experience of aging.

Homecoming, on the other hand, is often associated with death: dying at home is perceived as the natural closing of the life cycle, as demonstrate, for instance, Nobel laureate Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's words quoted above. Anthropologists describe this assumption as a frequent motive for people to return to their country of origin in later life (Percival 2013; Stefansson 2004). In literature, the idea that people's natural place to die and to be buried is where their life once began is expressed in terms of narrativity: homecoming is represented as the end of the (life) story, but, consequentially, also as the end of creativity. This aspect of émigré writing will be discussed in this paper, using the example of selected works of Russian 20th-century literature of emigration.

Dagmar Gramshammer-Hohl is Senior Lecturer in the Department of Slavic Studies at the University of Graz, Austria. She specializes in literary and cultural studies with a focus on 20th-century Russian literature, gender, and aging studies. In her Ph.D. thesis (2002) she analyzed representations of women's aging in Russian literature. Her current research project focuses on narratives of homecoming in Russian and Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian literature of exile. She was granted the Prof. Paul Petry Award in Aging Studies in 1998 and is an alumna of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. In 2011 she was granted the Excellence in Teaching Award of the University of Graz.

Maija Könönen

Cultural Narratives of Old Age Senility and Ageing in Russian Contemporary Literature

Despite the fact that the ageing of population with its various consequences, pose a serious social, medical and human challenge, questions related to old age have rarely been approached from the viewpoint of literary studies. Western debates on ageing have been dominated by social and biomedical discourses.

The same can be argued about the situation in Russia although, for example, the medical explanatory model embedded in the notion of dementia denoting a variety of progressive brain diseases that impair intellect, memory and behavior, is not yet generally adopted. Moreover, the very notion of dementia is completely unknown to the general public. This paper examines representations of “starcheskij marazm” (old age senility) and old age as they are reflected in Russian contemporary literature. Using literary gerontology as a methodological tool, it focuses on portraits of elderly protagonists in Ekaterina Sadur's (b.1973) short stories. These representations are conceived as culturally determined narratives that either sustain or challenge the socially constructed stereotypes, the master narratives about old people. The main question posed here is how different cultural traditions (religious and political) and social factors (e.g. gender and family structures, social relations, modern vs. traditional ways of living) have molded the perceptions and values associated with ageing in the Russian

cultural sphere. What are the differences in attitudes on ageing and dementia between the western world and Russia, if any, and how do they manifest themselves in contemporary Russian short prose.

Maija Könönen is professor of Russian Cultural Studies at the University of Eastern Finland, Joensuu, Finland. She is currently leading a multidisciplinary project called Between the Normal and the Abnormal – Cultural meanings of Dementia and Old Age in Finland and Russia (<https://demold-cult.wordpress.com/>). Within the project she investigates narratives and representations of ageing in Russian literature using methods of literary gerontology. Her aim is to shed light on how historical contexts and cultural, religious, philosophical and other ideological influence in particular, have moulded impressions, perceptions and values associated with ageing and old age senility (*starčeskij marazm*). The focus of her research is on the relationship between dementia and “the self,” dementia and “madness,” manifested in literary representations, which on a larger scale relates to the Russian view of man and rationality. Her research material consists mainly of prose fiction with the focus on contemporary Russian literature. Her other research interests include such topics as: Madness and rationality in Russian literature and culture, (especially “holy foolishness”); Space in Russian culture; The “St Petersburg Text” in Russian literature (in the poetry of Joseph Brodsky, Yelena Shvarts, among others); Modernism in Russian poetry.

Mark Schweda

A Season to Everything? Introducing Life Course Perspectives to Bioethical Debates on Aging

In light of the demographic change, bioethical and public health questions regarding old age are gaining in relevance and urgency. However, many of the corresponding bioethical debates rely on implicit, often rather traditional conceptions of aging and the human life course, thus slipping questionable assumptions into the debate without further reflection or justification. A life course perspective could provide a suitable starting point for analyzing and discussing such conceptions. It allows to conceptualize human life as a socio-culturally standardized sequence of phases, stages, or steps, each linked to a certain status as well as to specific roles, moral expectations, and life prospects. Considering life course concepts such as age norms and life phase ideals could help ethics to appreciate and theoretically accommodate the normative implications of the temporal structure of human existence.

Mark Schweda is Research Fellow at the Department for Medical Ethics and History of Medicine, University Medical Center Göttingen. As a philosopher and bioethicist, his research focuses on philosophical, bioethical, and socio-cultural aspects of aging and the life course as well as on questions of political philosophy. Among his recent publications are the edited volumes *Pro-Age oder Anti-Aging? Altern im Fokus der modernen Medizin* (together with Silke Schicktanz, 2012) and *Popularizing Dementia. Public Expressions and Representations of Forgetfulness* (together with Aagje Swinnen, 2015).

Cristina Douglas

Representing Old Age in Post-Communist Romania

Romanian people currently aged 65+ have either been born or raised during the communist regime. Thus, the present narratives of old age cannot be divorced from the political changes that have taken place over the last seven decades. Older people from post-communist Romania are represented in an almost interchangeable relationship with the (communist) past and its retrograde mentality, yet stereotyped as unchanged from their younger selves (“politically submissive” and “civically irresponsible”). They are held accountable for the slow socio-political evolution, high rate of corruption and electoral manipulability. Using participant observation of public transport, along with the analysis of biographical/autobiographical and mass-media narratives of old age, I propose an exploration of the complicated relationship between old age, the inheritance of communist socio-political structures, current inter-generational conflicts manifested in public spaces and political discourse that contributes to the present high discrimination of older people in Romania. Their death is represented — both symbolically and physically — as desirable, necessary and as the only chance for a radical change of political identity. I point to how these representations are used as a political tool to gain votes either by demonizing older people (as remnants of the communist past; as being collaborators of the communist

regime — “informants”; as “drainers” of public money; or as “parasites” of the incomes of the young) or victimizing them (as the post-communist most vulnerable financial class). I also show how often their specific needs fail to be addressed in a coherent manner due to this ideological and political stereotyping. While Romanian post-communist narratives and representations of old age don't speak about the process of ageing per se, I explore how they are intimately intertwined with political life and inform many of the political decisions regarding public health and retirement schemes.

Cristina Douglas – I am a cultural anthropologist, focusing on the anthropology of death and dying in relation to old age, social death and myths of modernity, including political ideologies. For over 8 years I worked at the Institute of Ethnography and Folklore, Romanian Academy. Currently I am awaiting my final examination for my doctoral project (University of Bucharest, Romania), in which I explore the relationship between modern beliefs in immortality, normative ageing and citizenship.

Panel 4

Middle Age

📅 Thursday, April 27 / ⌚ 11:30–13:00 / 🏠 SR B1

Chair: *Julia Henderson*

Participants: *Julia Henderson, Virjo Yläanne, Pirjo Nikander, Ofra Or*

Julia Henderson

Generational Continuity Versus Rupture: A Comparative Analysis of August Osage County by Tracy Letts and 4000 Miles by Amy Herzog

The recent award-winning family dramas August Osage County (AOC) by Tracy Letts and 4000 Miles by Amy Herzog explore intergenerational conflict as families cope with crises. Both plays are set in the home of a maternal figure, and turn on how that character copes with the process of aging, as well as how all family members deal with loss. My interest lies in how age, aging, and old age are portrayed in the unfolding of intergenerational conflict and the corresponding processes of generational continuity or rupture. Anne Davis Basting claims “...antagonism between generations seems to pervade Western culture” (85). In theatre, from Greek tragedy (e.g. Euripides’ Iphigenia), to the works of Shakespeare (e.g. King Lear), to American Expressionist drama (e.g. O’Neill’s Long Day’s Journey into Night), intergenerational conflict is a common theme that often positions the older generation as liable for dysfunction. However, Kathleen Woodward argues that generations are not necessarily divided by envy, fear, hostility, guilt and jealousy, but rather can be connected by a sense of attachment (149). This connectedness,

Patricia Mellancamp describes as “generational continuity”, as opposed to “rupture” (319-20). Here, I argue that *August Osage County*, by focusing on generational rupture, continues the dramatic tradition of making the older generation responsible for family discord. Age becomes synonymous with loss of control, loss of tolerance, increased destructiveness, irresponsibility, and neediness. In particular mothers are constructed as dishonest, argumentative, self-interested and abusive. As a result, Letts’s depiction of intergenerational relations is not only ageist, but sexist. The degree of critical acclaim that AOC received despite these themes demonstrates our lack of cultural awareness of ageism. Contrastingly, *4000 Miles*, through emphasizing generational continuity, offers a narrative of intergenerational reciprocity and hope, that deconstructs stereotypes of old age and restores an element of wisdom to the older generation. In doing so, Herzog models ways to more positively construct our collective generational heritage.

Julia Henderson is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Theatre and Film Studies at the University of British Columbia. Her dissertation explores ways in which contemporary North American and British productions express and, in particular, resist ageist narratives. Julia’s work on theatre and aging has been published in *Theatre Research in Canada* (Spring 2016) and *Age Culture Humanities* (in press).

Virpi Yläanne and Pirjo Nikander

Older Parenting, Membership Categorisation and Ageing

The average age of first time parents and delayed parenting are on the rise across Western countries. This trend has implications for future family structures and expectations for age-related milestones relating to reproduction, parenting (and grandparenting). This paper examines reproductive biographies at midlife (approximately after the age of 40). The data comprise semi-structured single interviews with nine heterosexual couples and six individuals who became parents for the first time between the ages of 38-57 yrs., either naturally or via assisted reproduction. The interviews sought to elicit accounts of parenting experiences, discursive representations of lifespan identities, and perceived advantages and disadvantages of parenting at midlife. From a Discourse Analytic perspective, the analysis focuses on age-identification strategies, processes of self-presentation as an older parent, and narratives of change and development into a parenting role at midlife. The findings relate to different dimensions of age(ing) and self-identity. More specifically, the analysis reveals strategies of membership categorization in the interviewees' talk, which are linked with contemporary debates about age norms, transitions and fluidity in age identification.

Virpi Yläanne is Senior Lecturer in Language and Communication at Cardiff University, Wales, UK. Her research interests are in media representations of age and ageing and discursive construction of lifespan identities. She has published widely in cultural/social gerontological journals, such as *Ageing and Society*, *Journal of Aging Studies* and *International Journal of Ageing and Later Life*. **Pirjo Nikander** is Research Director in The University of Tampere Doctoral School, and Adjunct Professor in the University of Helsinki, Finland. Her research interests span qualitative methodology, discourse analysis, institutional ageism, and institutional interaction. She is a long-time member of the editorial board of *Journal of Aging Studies*, and currently the associate editor of *International Journal of Ageing and Later Life*.

Ofra Or

Israeli Midlife Women in Second Partnerships Choosing Living Apart Together

my research deals with mid-life heterosexual Israeli Jewish women, in living-apart-together (LAT) partnerships after previous partnerships, mostly marriage. Establishing new partnerships is a sociological phenomenon that has only lately begun to appear in academic and public discourse in Israel. I explore how new trends such as the concomitant weakening of the traditional non-equal gender perceptions, and multiplication of family forms are manifested in Israel, through three research domains: LAT second partnerships, midlife experience and women's identity formation.

The research follows the qualitative-phenomenological method. From a Feminist perspective, what guided qualitative research is the centrality of women's experiences and their meaning in a socio-cultural context. Data was collected through a combination of an open interview with semi-structural interview. The population sampled was 12 Israeli Jewish heterosexual LAT women, aged 51 to 62.

Three levels of female identity formation arose from the research: personal identity, couple identity and familial identity. In terms of personal identity, the research findings contradict the prevailing hegemonic discourse, according to which women in midlife are characterized by loss: loss of fertility, loss of the maternal role, and of attractive appearance, and are

"worn out." Most of the interviewees possess a hybrid femininity, which combines "emphasized" (stereotypical) characteristics and individualistic aspects. From the way that they defined themselves and from their actions, it became clear that they possess a feeling of power and of entitlement, that they are striving for independence, and that they see their sexuality as an important factor in defining their femininity and of their rights as women. As to the formulation of couple hood and familial identity, this study allows us to confirm the power of familyism – the perception of the family as the central social institution in Israel, and its role in second-partnerships.

Ofra Or received her PhD in the Gender Program at Bar-Ilan University, Israel, 2016. This paper is based on research for her doctoral thesis, "Midlife Israeli Jewish Women in New Heterosexual Relationships (Second Partnerships)." Thesis supervisors: Professor Rachel Ben-Ari and Professor Sylvie Fogiel-Bijaoui. Ofra is interested in ageing and post-modern family trends. Organizer of the conference "Midlife Women" January, 2017. She is a personal coach for academic writing, expressive therapist and facilitator for women's empowerment groups. Publications: 2013 – "Midlife Women in Second Partnerships Choosing Living Apart together: An Israeli case study". *Israel Studies Review*, 28 (2), 41-60.; 2013 – "Feminist Values and

The 2011 Summer Protests: A Critical Study on the Conduct of the Social Justice Protest ". Isha L'Isha Feminist Center Official Position Paper.; 2013
– "Ideology, Structure, and Operations: The Path of 'Isha'" In: Isha L'Isha: 30 Years of Feminist Action. Pardes Publishing, 61-86 (written with Roti Gur and Yahel As-Korlender).

Panel 5

What's Up in Feminist Gerontology?

Part 1: Theorizing Gender and Sexuality in Ageing Studies

📅 Thursday, April 27 / 🕒 11:30–13:00 / 🏠 SR C1

Chairs: Linn Sandberg and Barbara L. Marshall

*Participants: Linn Sandberg, Barbara L. Marshall,
Devin McGeehan Muchmore, Sarah Jen*

By bringing together current scholarship that studies intersections of gender, sexuality, age and ageing, this symposium is the first of two conjoined symposia that aim to explore the current state of affairs of recent feminist gerontology. This symposium presents 4 papers which explore how gender and sexuality are approached and theorized in gerontology and popular discourses on aging and later life. The symposium starts with a historical approach, as discussions of the role and significance of sexuality for aging populations are by no means new. In the panel's first paper "Sex is a beautiful thing until rigor mortis sets in: Senior Citizenship and the Sexual Revolution in the United States", Devin McGeehan Muchmore outlines the vivid popular discussion on aging and sexuality in the 1960s and 1970s American popular thought. Popular thinkers, including sex manual writers, cultural critics, sex and sen-

ior activists, challenged ideas of the elderly as sexless and promoted the benefits of sex in old age. As such, McGeehan Muchmore argues, these popular thinkers not only articulated a new vision of successful aging, but also insisted upon seniors' cultural citizenship by claiming a place in the ongoing sexual revolution.

Despite these early attempts, Sarah Jen suggests, in the panel's second paper, "Sexuality and Midlife and Older Women: Uses of Theory", that ideas of asexuality and sexual decline in old age are continuously presented as dominant cultural narratives. In her review of 21 articles focused on the sexuality of midlife and older women, she finds that articles all positioned their own work as counter-narratives, representing varied theoretical reactions to the dominant narrative of asexual old age. Jen argues that the theoretical work is inconsistently integrated into reviewed articles on ageing women's sexuality, but that the articles support the role of practitioners in affirming diverse sexual experiences of older women, and how societal constructions of sexuality impact their lives.

Linn Sandberg and Barbara L. Marshall in their paper "Queering aging futures?" develop a critique of the heteronormative focus of the discourse of 'successful ageing', but also discuss how 'failures' and refusals to meet 'success' open important questions about how to differently imagine ageing futures. Sandberg and Marshall concludes by discussing how feminist, queer and crip theories may foster new and less monolithic ways of envisioning aging futures. The panel's papers together present a picture of how sexuality and gender has been discussed in discourses on ageing, both gerontological and popular discourse. But the panel also gives hints at what has been omitted and suggests ways ahead for feminist gerontology specifically, and critical cultural gerontology more widely.

Linn Sandberg & Barbara Marshall

Queering Aging Futures?

In this paper, we develop critiques of the heteronormative focus of the discourse of 'successful ageing'. We first explore the affective politics of popular representations of successful aging as modes of heteronormative belonging, paying particular attention to the ways of embodying this success. Examples are drawn from 'lifestyle' magazines, health promotion materials, and content marketing materials aimed at mid-to later-life adults to visualize how successful ageing is embodied through hetero-happiness. We then explore how 'failures' (such as that represented by disability or dementia), and/or refusals (for example, by actively resisting cultural norms of gendered, sexualized aging) to meet 'success' in this way open important questions about how to differently imagine aging futures. Although some research exists on the conditions for ageing LGBTQ-communities, in particular in relation to care needs, we argue that there is also a need for further discussion on the production and maintenance of normativity in relationships, embodiment, and intimacy with regard to ageing/old age and what constitutes the good (later) life. The negativity associated with queers, old age and disability is linked to their associations with 'no future' or 'bad future' and discourses of successful aging futures thus readily involve the disavowal of the queer/disabled/frail old. Conclusions thus ponder how critical cultural gerontology might draw on feminist, queer and crip theories to foster new and less monolithic ways of envisioning aging futures.

Linn Sandberg is Assistant Professor in Gender Studies and a lecturer at the Division of Gender studies, Stockholm University. She is currently undertaking the study 'Alzheimers Disease, Sexuality and Intimacy: Dementia and the Intimate Partner Relationship', funded by Forte, the Swedish Research Council for Health, Working life and Welfare. Sandberg's research is devoted to making dialogues between gender studies and cultural gerontology, and she has published on the topics of ageing, gender and sexuality in journals such as *Sexualities*, *Men and Masculinities*, and *International Journal of Ageing and Later life*. She is also a contributor to the *Routledge Handbook of Cultural Gerontology* (Twigg & Martin, 2015), and *Introducing the New Sexualities Studies* (Fischer & Seidman, 2016), with chapters on sexuality and later life.

Barbara L. Marshall is Professor of Sociology at Trent University in Peterborough, Canada. She has written widely on feminist theory, sexuality and the body, and with her colleague Stephen Katz, has co-authored a series of articles exploring ageing, embodiment and sexuality. Her research on "Sexualizing the Third Age", funded by the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada, is situated at the intersection of ageing studies and feminist studies. It casts a critical feminist eye on the discourses, imagery and technologies of 'successful ageing'. A new project is exploring the embodiment of quantification and self-tracking as these shape ageing in digital culture.

Devin McGeehan Muchmore

“Sex is a beautiful thing until rigor mortis sets in:” Senior Citizenship and the Sexual Revolution in the United States

In this paper, I examine the explosion of popular discussion on aging and sexuality in 1960s and 1970s American popular thought, focusing upon a loose collection of authors, activists, and medical professionals who found sex in old age to be a crucial topic of discussion and reform. In the mid-twentieth century, sex researchers like Alfred Kinsey, William Masters and Virginia Johnson introduced a major shift in scholarly thinking on old age sexuality by shifting attention toward actual sexual behavior as much as capacity, challenging popular stereotypes that seniors did not have sex. By the late-1960s, this research captured popular attention, in part because many Americans worried about the psychological, emotional, and social status of the elderly. All too often, old age appeared to bring despair and social isolation. For sex manual writers, David Reuben and Alex Comfort, cultural critics Simone de Beauvoir and Susan Sontag, sex educators Mary Calderone and Isadore Rubin, and senior activists Robert Butler and Maggie Kuhn, sex seemed the perfect antidote to these problems. Thus, these thinkers turned to con-

temporary research that offered data on seniors' sexual activity, and they reworked it in mass publications, in interviews and at conferences. Against those who claimed the elderly were sexless, they celebrated the emotional and psychological benefits of sex in old age. By remapping the connections between sexuality and aging, these popular thinkers not only articulated a new vision of successful aging, but also insisted upon seniors' cultural citizenship by claiming a place in the ongoing sexual revolution.

Devin McGeehan Muchmore is an interdisciplinary historian of sexuality, gender, and age in the 20th century U.S. and a PhD candidate in American Studies at Yale University. My dissertation-in-progress examines the business and cultural history of adult businesses in the 1970s. More recently, I have begun work on my next large-scale project, which will be a cultural history of sexuality and aging in the 20th century U.S. This paper represents some preliminary results from that research.

Sarah Jen

Sexuality and Midlife and Older Women: Uses of Theory

Purpose of the study: Gerontology remains a largely a theoretical field, and few scholars have examined uses of theory pertaining to specific aspects of the lives of older adults. In particular, the sexual experiences of midlife and older adults are underexplored. Design and Methods: Using a critical feminist approach, this review examined uses of theory in 21 articles focused on the sexuality of midlife and older women, and identified both substantive theories and methodologies, as well as how theories shaped the literature and were integrated into other aspects of the articles. Results: Reviewed articles described the dominant narrative around older women's sexuality as assuming asexuality or sexual decline in later life, but all positioned their own work as counter –narratives, representing varied theoretical reactions to the dominant narrative. A majority of articles were framed by social constructionist, interpretivist, or critical feminist orientations, balancing both the material and socially constructed aspects of sexuality experienced by aging women. Implications: While theoretical work is inconsistently inte-

grated into reviewed articles, its use informs the development of the overall narrative shaped and told by a particular body of literature. In research examining the sexuality of midlife and older women, theories talk back to the culturally dominant, but empirically unsupported narrative of declining sexuality. In doing so, these articles support the role of practitioners in affirming diverse sexual experiences of older women and how societal constructions of sexuality impact their lives.

Sarah Jen's research focuses on the health of LGBTQ older adults and the sexuality of older women, as informed by critical feminist and life course perspectives. Through her doctoral research and her involvement with the Aging with Pride Study, the largest national study of LGBTQ older adults, Sarah has explored how the social networks, experiences, and lives of bisexual individuals inform their health and well-being across the life course. She has also explored how intimate and sexual relationships inform older women's experiences of their bodies, aging, and identities.

Panel 6

Discrimination/Violence

📅 Thursday, April 27 / ⌚ 11:30–13:00 / 🏠 SR C2

Chair: *Sigal Naim*

Participants: *Maria Edström, Eva-Maria Svensson,
Susan Mary Benbow, Sarmishta Bhattacharyya,
Paul Kingston, Albert Banerjee*

Maria Edström and Eva-Maria Svensson

Cultural Narratives and Representations in Swedish Law and Media Regarding Age Discrimination

this paper explores narratives on aging in age discrimination court cases and how they are represented in media. Sweden is a welfare state, considered to be a good place to grow old, ranked No 3 in the Global Agewatch Index 2015. However, Sweden was one of the last countries in EU to adopt legislation against age discrimination. Age has been a ground for discrimination since 2009, and so far there are 8 tried cases. These cases, together with the media coverage of the cases, and the newspaper reporting on the role of the Discrimination Ombudsman (DO), are the empirical material. The research questions include:

- ▶ What narratives of age and employment become visible in the texts?
- ▶ What other factors interact with age, such as gender, profession and ethnicity?
- ▶ How do these representations relate to the ongoing challenge to society on labor availability for older people and the use/misuse of their human capital and competences?
- ▶ The approach is interdisciplinary and takes its starting point in the capability concept used in the transdisciplinary research platform Centre for Ageing and Health, AgeCap, at the University of Gothenburg. Capability can refer to the individual's ability to perform actions in order to

reach goals he or she has reason to value. Here, in this paper, the focus is on factors on a macro level; application of laws that affect working older people and representations of media of these issues. Together they form narratives of aging and age discrimination.

Maria Edstrom, PhD, Senior Lecturer at the Department of Journalism, Media and Communication (JMG), University of Gothenburg, Sweden. Her field of interest is gender, human rights and freedom of expression. She is part of the transdisciplinary Centre for Ageing and Health (AgeCap) at the University of Gothenburg and the research project Comparing Gender and Media Equality across the Globe. Eva-Maria Svensson, LL.D. Professor of Law, Department of Law, School of Business, Economics and Law, University of Gothenburg, Sweden. Her research focus is on freedom of speech, gender legal scholarship, legal theory, legal philosophy, and gender equality and discrimination. She is also part of the TUARK research network on gender equality in the Arctic, and of the transdisciplinary Centre for Ageing and Health (AgeCap) at the University of Gothenburg.

Susan Mary Benbow, Sarmishta Bhattacharyya,
Paul Kingston

Violence Involving Older Adults: What Can We Learn from Domestic Homicides?

In England, Wales and Northern Ireland, Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) have been carried out since April 2011 under the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act (2004), when the death of a person (aged over 16 years) results from violence, abuse or neglect by either a person to whom the victim was related, or with whom the victim had an intimate personal relationship, or by a member of the same household. DHRs review the circumstances of the death and identify learning.

We have identified thirty DHR reports published up until May 2015 in England and involving a person aged over 60 years as victim or alleged perpetrator or both, by submitting freedom of information requests to the local authorities.

The reports have been analyzed qualitatively in order to extract common themes/ learning, and divided into those where the victim was aged 60 plus; the alleged perpetrator was aged 60 plus; and where both victim and alleged perpetrator were aged 60 plus. We also identified a subset of Reports involving murder-suicides.

Important themes include: communication/ information sharing between agencies; differing perceptions of older people/ageism; risk assessment of older adults; the stresses of care-giving; the role of safeguarding in relation to perceived mental capacity.

Domestic homicides are part of the spectrum of violence involving older people. Every case is a tragedy for family and friends. It is important to understand common features involved in the events themselves and the responses of services in an endeavor to prevent future violence involving older adults.

Susan Mary Benbow is Visiting Professor of Mental Health & Ageing at the Centre for Ageing Studies, University of Chester, and Director of Older Mind Matters Ltd. She writes a lot, regularly presents at regional, national and international meetings, is involved in memory clinic services, practises as a registered systemic psychotherapist, teaches a range of students, and is partner/clinical advisor to a number of research projects.

Sharmi Bhattacharyya is a Consultant Old Age Psychiatrist in North Wales, U.K. and Honorary Senior Lecturer at University of Chester, U.K. She enjoys teaching and has publications and presentations in her areas of interest which include mental health in BME elderly, Young Onset Dementias, Mental Health Act and Mental Capacity Act in UK. **Paul Kingston** is Professor of Ageing and Mental Health, RNMH, RMN, RNT, PG-CertEd, MA, PhD, FRSPH, HARSH, at the University of Chester, where he is Director of the Centre for Ageing Studies. He has presented over 100 conference papers in numerous countries, co-authored/ authored 9 books, and published over 50 journal articles. In 1993 he co-founded the charity Action on Elder Abuse. He was a founding Editor of the Journal of Adult Protection, and consulting editor for the Journal of Elder Abuse and Neglect, and Social Welfare Ethics. He is currently Independent Chair for Adult Safeguarding and Childrens Safeguarding in Wigan, Independent Chair for Adult Safeguarding Blackburn with Darwen, and Home Office Expert Advisor (Adult Safeguarding) Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

Albert Banerjee

Being Mortal: Parsing Mortality from Growing Old

Aging has a complicated relationship with mortality. In the 1990s, discourses of “active aging” emerged to counter the perception that aging was a time of deterioration. These discourses sought to re-present the possibilities of growing old as a time of continued vitality. However, critics have observed that these were not so much representations of growing old but extensions of the ‘dream’ of an active mid-life. Some have suggested that there is a need to reintegrate notions of frailty and dying within representations of growing old. This paper takes on a different approach, suggesting that we need to parse mortality from growing old, and argues that mortality matters in its own right and that engagement with mortality is neither an end-of-life issue nor of specific relevance only for the elderly. Drawing on research from the medical humanities, sociology and anthropology (cf., Becker, 1973, Callahan, 2005, Bauman, 1992, Foucault, 1973), I argue that we engage with mortality throughout life, though largely unconsciously through the discourses of scientific medicine. These discourses train us into fearful and unsustainable orientations towards mortality and the vulnerabilities they entail. If we are to move towards a more sustainable society, we need to re-imagine mortality and develop approaches to vulnerability, limitation and finitude that engage these as natural, or even positive aspects of the

human condition at all stages of life. I conclude by considering efforts to bring mortality into life, drawing on feminist scholarship on vulnerability and existential psychotherapy’s use of death as a tool for authentic living.

Dr. **Albert Banerjee** is a health sociologist whose research explores the existential and political dimensions of health and mortality. To date, his research has developed critiques of the management of mortality through the analysis of a number of case studies, including: euthanasia, hospice, hypertension and nursing homes. With the aim of contributing to a more sustainable and compassionate society, his current research explores alternatives to the ethos of mastery investigating, on the one hand, the logic of care and its application to nursing home quality improvement and, on the other hand, contemplative philosophies and the unique relationships they enable to living and dying. He holds a position as Marie Curie COFAS research fellow at Stockholm University in Sweden.

Ageing, Body and Society – Critical Perspectives, Future Directions

📅 Thursday, April 27 / ⌚ 14:00–15:30 / 🏠 SR KW 12

Chairs: Wendy Martin and Julia Twigg

*Participants: Julia Twigg, Sweta Rajan-Rankin, Wendy Martin,
Katy Pilcher, Barbara L. Marshall*

Over the last two decades significant theoretical, methodological and empirical developments have explored the social, biological and cultural dimensions of our bodies as we grow older. An earlier concern within social gerontology that focused on the bodies of older people represented a return to biological determinism, and an overly medical approach has been replaced by a realisation of how a focus on ageing bodies offers a novel lens to examine a range of existing sociological and theoretical concerns. These include the nature of the body, self and ageing; social identities and social inequalities; lived experiences and everyday life; health and illness; and ageing across the life course from midlife to deep old age. The analysis of ageing bodies has also operated as a focal point for interdisciplinary work that draws together research across the arts, humanities and social sciences. It is over twenty years since the absent body in gerontology was highlighted. It is therefore

timely to bring together academics and researchers to review the wealth of work in this area and to explore and develop key debates, enhance current and emergent theoretical perspectives, disseminate empirical research and outline future directions for research in 'Ageing, Body and Society'. The papers presented within this symposium are associated with a special issue 'Ageing Body and Society: Critical Perspectives, Future Challenges' to be published in the 'Journal of Aging Studies', co-edited by Dr Wendy Martin and Professor Julia Twigg, who are also Co-Conveners of an international study group 'Ageing, Body and Society' which is within the British Sociological Association (BSA), and Co-Editors of the 'Routledge Handbook of Cultural Gerontology' that was published in 2015.

Julia Twigg

Dress, Gender and the Embodiment of Age

Dress lies on the interface between the body and its cultural expression. As such it is one of the key ways in which social categories are made concrete and visible. This applies to age, just as it does to the more familiar categories of gender and class, and the paper explores the cultural constitution of age through dress. Drawing on two empirical studies of dress and age, it examines the experiences and views of older women and men, addressing the intersections between the categories of gender and age, and the ways in which these shape embodied experience.

Julia Twigg is Professor of Social Policy and Sociology at the University of Kent. She has written widely on age and embodiment, recently focusing on the role of dress in the cultural constitution of age. In 2013 she published *Fashion and Age: Dress the Body and Later Life* that looked at the role of dress in the lives and experiences of older women. With Christina Buse, she undertook a study of *Dementia and Dress*, exploring issues of personhood, embodiment and memory. She is currently working on masculinity, dress and age. She is actively engaged in debates around cultural gerontology, and is co-editor with Wendy Martin of the Routledge Handbook of Cultural Gerontology, published in 2015. Her website related to dress and age is www.clothingandage.org

Panel 7 – Ageing, Body and Society

Sweta Rajan-Rankin

Bodies of Colour: A Call to Decolonize Gerontology

This paper examines the treatment of race, ethnicity and 'bodies of colour' within ageing studies. Despite many advances in understanding subjectivities in later life, the racialized ageing body has remained underexplored both in social gerontology, and race and ethnicity studies. Existing research has provided limited theorization on ethnic ageing, and race and ethnicity have often been treated as fixed demographic categories rather than fluid self-defined concepts. This can be problematic as it overlooks the political basis of racialized identities shaped by colonialism, post-coloniality and diasporic imaginaries. While mobilizing race narratives can create essentialist accounts, failure to connect ageing bodies with their colonial histories can lead to a depoliticized gerontology. Post-colonial theory is especially useful in offering fresh insights into ethnic ageing, by addressing the politics of race, place, temporality and 'culture' in framing identities of racialized ageing bodies. This paper concludes with a call to decolonize gerontology by challenging race neutrality in research, policy and practice.

Dr Sweta Rajan-Rankin is a senior lecturer in social work at the University of Kent. Her research focusses on the sociology of race and ethnicity, identity, sense of belonging, and ageing experiences of ethnic minority elders in immigrant communities. She is also interested in globalization and transnationalism and racialized bodies in and out of place. She is a co-convenor of the BSA Race and Ethnicity Study Group.

Wendy Martin and Katy Pilcher

Visual and Material Dimensions of Health, Risk and the Ageing Body in Everyday Life

Health practices are performed, understood and embodied within the context of the daily lives of people as they grow older. There is however limited research into the ways health, risk and the body are lived and experienced when situated within everyday life. This paper draws on data from the study 'Photographing Everyday Life: Ageing, Lived Experiences, Time and Space' funded by the ESRC. The focus of the project was to explore the significance of the ordinary and day-to-day and focus on the everyday meanings, lived experiences, practical activities, and social contexts in which people in mid to later life live their daily lives. We will show how the participants negotiated and mediated their ageing identities and bodies around everyday objects and technologies within the context of daily routines and bodily practices of health and well-being.

Dr. **Wendy Martin** is a Senior Lecturer in the College of Health and Life Sciences, Brunel University London, UK. Her research focuses on ageing, embodiment and daily life and the use of visual methods in ageing research. She was Principal Investigator for the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC, UK) research project Photographing Everyday Life: Ageing, Lived Experiences, Time and Space and is Co-Investigator for the Social Sciences

and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) international partnership Ageing, Communication, Technologies (ACT): experiencing a digital world in later life. Wendy is Co-Convenor of the British Sociological Association (BSA) Ageing, Body and Society study group and is Co-Editor of the Routledge Handbook of Cultural Gerontology that was published in 2015. Dr **Katy Pilcher** is a Lecturer in Sociology at Aston University. Her research interests centre around gender, sexualities, ageing, embodiment, and visual research methods. Katy has completed research projects relating to erotic dance, sex work, and ageing and everyday life. She has publications relating to her erotic dance research in Sexualities, Sociological Research Online, and Leisure Studies, and her latest work includes a co-edited collection entitled Queer Sex Work (Routledge, 2015, with Dr Mary Laing and Dr Nicola Smith). Katy is an executive committee member of the Feminist and Women's Studies Association (UK and Ireland) and is an Editorial Board Member of Sociological Research Online.

Barbara L. Marshall

Healthism@home: Digital self-tracking and embodied ageing

In this paper, I consider the ways that embodied aging may be produced through digital self-tracking technologies, interrogating the underlying rationalities and alignment with neoliberal demands for self-care. While research in the biomedical and exercise sciences focuses on how self-tracking devices can enhance interventions aimed at behavior modification with older adults, I draw on interviews with older users to argue that we need to attend more carefully to how the data produced by self-tracking circulates through the networks of technologies, relationships and regimes of expertise that are embedded in everyday social worlds.

Barbara L. Marshall is Professor of Sociology at Trent University in Peterborough, Canada. She has written widely on feminist theory, sexuality and the body, and with her colleague Stephen Katz, has co-authored a series of articles exploring ageing, embodiment and sexuality. Her research on “Sexualizing the Third Age”, funded by the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada, is situated at the intersection of ageing studies and feminist studies. It casts a critical feminist eye on the discourses, imagery and technologies of ‘successful ageing’. A new project is exploring the embodiment of quantification and self-tracking as these shape ageing in digital culture.

Panel 8

Expanding Our Understanding of Ageing in Place

📅 Thursday, April 27 / ⌚ 14:00–15:30 / 🏠 SR KW 21

Chairs: Patrik Marier

Participants: Patrik Marier, Nicole Macoretta, Marissa Singer

In recent years the challenges and benefits of ageing in place have dominated gerontological discourses, and while important work has been done on older adults' sense and experience of ageing in place, we need to expand and diversify our understanding what this means. Place is not only a physical space, but a complex symbolic and cultural construction (Tuan, 1991; Harvey, 1996; Relph, 1976).

Thinking about ageing and place offers the opportunity to move outside the perimeters of the private homes and/or residences for older adults, and opens up the discussion to socio-cultural processes, economic and political forces, geography, urban planning, the privatization of infrastructure and social services, and the arts. In addressing the spatial dimensions of ageing we can think about both the macro-scale perspectives, and the particular settings of local places, and what these mean for older adults, their families, and those involved in services and care. Robert Hay suggests that for people to transform spaces into meaningful places, supportive social and structural environments are central to place attachment and feelings of "rootedness" (1998). As such, a multitude of cultural and environmental, socio-economic and political forces shape our relationship with place and allow, or disallow, a sense of well-being and belonging.

This interdisciplinary panel brings together scholars from political science, urban studies, communication studies, and art therapy to consider ageing and place as a field of study that involves analyses on a range of issues, from bureaucratic standards and policies to build, social and institutional environments, the impact of neighbourhood revitalization projects on older residents, and the potential art has for place-making and community. In shifting the focus from ageing-in-place to ageing and place, we are more equipped to evaluate conceptual models of age-friendly cities and policies, and to reveal underlying assumptions, beliefs and approaches to ageing in place. Understanding place, as a "living construct" (Kearns and Gavin, 2009) allows us to position enquiry into ageing in a larger socio-political, cultural and economic framework.

A number of characteristics of the built environment and personal limitations have direct or indirect influence on the well-being of older adults. Patrik Marier's examines the challenges we face in shifting from a curative model of health care to one that focuses on home-based care. In thinking about the broader social politics of elder care, we need to consider the different kinds of formal and informal services that are available and accessible. With increasingly limited resources and shifting understandings of

Patrik Marier

The Policy Challenges of Aging in Place

ageing, the provision of health and social care are no longer hospital-based and discrete, but home-based and diffuse.

Studies on the urban environment have suggested that various characteristics of the built and green environment have direct or indirect influence on the well-being of residents, but neighbourhood revitalization projects can have negative impact. Third spaces as public and community places allow for the potential informal and unstructured encounters, and connection with others. Nicole Macoretta's work thinks about the ways in which art making can create "third spaces" for older adults that allow for individual and collective identities to be expressed and interacted.

Singer provides an overview of the implementation of an intergenerational art therapy intervention that uses street art. This innovative practice engages with older adults and adolescents in order to foster place attachment and community safety. Her work draws our attention to the potential for intergenerational solidarity to emerge at the intersection of shared spaces and cultural practices.

Together, these papers explore the concept of place as situated in larger socio-economic, political and cultural environments.

Aging in place strategies are rapidly embraced across industrialized countries. While this objective aligns with the wishes of many older adults and could potentially reduce health care spending, there are noticeable hurdles to cross. The primary aim of this paper is to illustrate these difficulties associated with a shift from, for example, a curative model of health care to one where home-care services becomes more prominent. These go well beyond policies and programs, controlled by health ministries. To illustrate the scope and depth of these difficulties, this contribution relies upon focus groups conducted throughout Québec.

Patrik Marier is a professor of Political Science at Concordia University, Concordia University Research Chair (CURC) in Aging and Public Policy & Scientific Director of the Center for Research and Expertise in Social Gerontology (CREGÉS). His research focuses on the impact of aging populations on a number of public policy fields including pensions, labour, and social services and programs across comparative cases. He is currently completing a book length manuscript on how Canadian provinces are preparing themselves to face the consequences and opportunities of an aging population. His research activities and numerous scientific publications have led him to develop an international network focused on social gerontology.

Nicole Macoretta

Creating Third Space in Community Art Studios: A Look into Two Senior Art Making Groups in Montreal, Canada

The community art studio is an ideal place for seniors and older adults to learn, socialize and feel a sense of belonging in their communities. Central principles of these studios often involve unstructured, free creative activity in safe spaces that encourage personal and community connection, collaboration and self-expression through the act of making art together (Barndt, 2008; Lowe, 2000; Timm-Bottos, 1995). In this way, the community art studio (whether in fixed locations or organized as pop-up style studios temporarily occupying shared spaces) creates fluid third spaces (Bhabha, 1994) in which participants can engage in cultural interaction, and build individual and collective identities outside of previously established hierarchies and tensions. This paper will look at the creation of third space for two seniors' art making groups that meet in different community art studios in Montreal, Canada. La Ruche d'Art St. Henri is a community art studio that occupies a fixed storefront space in a working class neighbourhood, while the NDG Seniors Atelier is a community art studio that occupies the community room of a seniors' residence once a

week at a fixed time. Similarities and differences in the creation and experience of third space for these two groups will be considered and discussed.

Nicole Macoretta is an artist, art therapist and art educator born in Ontario, Canada. Her artwork is grounded in and reflective of her work with older adults in various clinical and community settings. It is interdisciplinary in nature, utilizing mixed media and various practices to express themes of memory, loss and abstract, ineffable experience. In her work as an art therapist and art educator, Nicole is focused on encouraging the emergence and cultivation of creative capacities in support of physical and mental well-being for aging populations. She is currently completing a Master's in Art Education at Concordia University, researching perceived informal learning for older adults in community art studios.

Marissa Singer

An Intergenerational Art Therapy Intervention Using Street Art to Foster Place Attachment

This intervention research paper aims to fill the gap in intergenerational, adolescent, older adult, art therapy, place attachment, and street art research. By incorporating an analysis and synthesis of this literature, I have developed a new form of art therapy, “street art therapy”. This extensive research culminates in a proposed intergenerational art therapy intervention using street art, with the intention of fostering place attachment, and overall community safety. The first two steps of intervention research according to Fraser, Richman, Galinsky and Day (2009) are used to support this intervention, with the intent that it can be used to complete the remaining three steps of testing the intervention, evaluating and adjusting it based on the pilot and finalizing the intervention to be used at large. Considerations and Limitations are also described in the discussion section of this paper.

Marissa Singer recently received her Masters of Arts in Creative Arts Therapies, Art Therapy Option, from Concordia University in Montreal, Canada. Marissa was born and raised in Massachusetts, USA. She has lived in many cities all over the world, and currently lives and works in Montreal, Quebec. She has worked with a variety of populations, including: young adults in psychiatric and detox inpatient care, young adults with intellectual disabilities, older adults, and adolescents. Her passion is working with adolescents and older adults and she currently facilitates art therapy groups with older adults in both a day center and in residential long-term care. Her graduate research culminated in the creation of an intervention on how an intergenerational street art therapy group can foster place attachment, and she hopes to gain funding to pilot the intervention, and facilitate it in the near future.

Panel 9

The Material Side of Aging: Doing Age with Things

📅 Thursday, April 27 / ⌚ 14:00–15:30 / 🏠 Conference Hall

Chair: Lucia Artner

Participants: Carolin Kollewe, Monika Urban, Lucia Artner,
Daniela Böringer, Jasmin Richter

The research into age and aging scarcely considers the concrete material world, in which, and through which it is manifested socially and culturally. In this panel, we look at the role that material objects, as well as spatial arrangements play in different settings of caring and nursing. The things used in these settings will not be discussed as central parts of caring practice and of doing age: but as products of society in which images of old age and caring, and power relations are inscribed. The presentations in this interdisciplinary panel combine insights from Material Culture Studies, Science and Technology Studies, Gerontology and Aging Studies, bringing together different disciplines (i.a. anthropology and pedagogy) and different methodological approaches (ethnography, ethnomethodology etc.).

Carolin Kollewe

Older People Caught between “Independence” and “Helicopter Children”: Images of Old Age, In- tergenerational Relations and the Use of Assistive Technologies

The paper focuses on new assistive technologies which are currently being introduced into elderly people's households in Germany. It discusses how these devices and the way they are used are related to the cultural images of old age, the relationship between older parents and their grown up children, and care arrangements. Analyzing the perspectives of older people, their children and carers working for social services, it shows how the organization of care is shaped by the introduction of these devices, and how the duty of care is distributed and discussed by the involved persons. The paper combines theoretical insights from Material Culture Studies, Science and Technology Studies and Aging Studies.

Dr. **Carolin Kollewe** is a social anthropologist working at the Institute of Gerontology at Heidelberg University. Her research interests are aging/care/technology, aging & migration, aging in intercultural comparison, material culture and museum studies. Currently she works on the study “Tech-noCare: The role of assistive technologies in the organization of care for elderly people.”

Monika Urban

Digital Health Technologies and the Changing Images and Challenges of Aging

In recent years, digital health technologies have become increasingly established in households of the elderly in Europe. The paper approaches this topic by looking at shifts in the (health) practices of the elderly through the usage of digital health technologies. Especially those self-responsible digital health technologies which target on prolonging fitness (e.g. wearables and apps), on monitoring chronic conditions (e.g. sphygmomanometer and heart rate monitors) and on enabling aging-in-place (e.g. ambient assistive technologies) not just change practices of aging: On the one side, they enable new experiences of ageing, and on the other, they evoke new demands and responsibilities. The paper focuses on this dual nature of 'digital aging' as well as on corresponding images of aging itself. Therefore a gerontechnological approach will be introduced and data of an ongoing project displayed.

Dr. phil. **Monika Urban** is a social scientist working at the Institute for Public Health and Nursing at the University of Bremen. Her research interests are sociology of health & ageing, digital sociology, gerontechnology and governmentality studies. She works currently on the study "Virtualisation and Embodying of digital Health. A qualitative Study on beliefs and practices in the context of eHealth".

Lucia Artner

On the Material and Spatial Arrangements of Institutional Elderly Care

Isoposable gloves, incontinence draw sheets, nursing bed – many things professional care-givers work with on a daily basis are omnipresent in the rooms of people living in nursing homes for the elderly. These allegedly 'private' spaces are frequented by people working in nursing homes (nurses, cleaning staff, social workers etc.) on a daily basis. The spatial and material arrangements within institutional elderly care are socially constructed by the various status groups as they interact with one another. Within these spatial and material settings and the actors engaged in them, certain images of old age are produced. My presentation will discuss the different ways in which age, professionalism and the meaning of care are constructed by relating to the 'material side' of institutional elderly care.

Lucia Artner M.A. is a social anthropologists working as a junior researcher at the Department of Social Work and Organization Studies, University of Hildesheim. Her research focuses on the material culture of care, ethnographic approaches to studying institutional elderly care, transnational studies and feminist research into care.

Daniela Böringer and Jasmin Richter

On the Affordance of Objects in Care

the presentation will introduce in the analysis of video data from a conversation analytical point of view. Both methodological and practical considerations on working with real-time interactional data will be given. Besides this, we will also show an exemplary analysis on objects in caring situations. Especially in care, objects have to be integrated in interactions and we will show how professional carers work with the 'affordance' of objects – not only in the well-known field of 'therapeutical' objects (dolls etc.) but also with everyday things.

Dr. **Daniela Böringer** M.A. is Senior researcher at the Department of Social Work and Organization Studies, University of Hildesheim. Trained in ethnographic research, ethnomethodology and conversational analysis, her research interests encompass aging, palliative care and social work from an interactionist perspective. **Jasmin Richter** is an MA-Student at the Department of Social Work and Organization Studies, University of Hildesheim.

Panel 10

Intergenerations

📅 Thursday, April 27 / ⌚ 14:00–15:30 / 🏠 SR B1

Chairs: Ieva Stončikaitė

Participants: Mathilde Plard, Aurélien Martineau, L'ubica Voľanská

Mathilde Plard and Aurélien Martineau

Exploring Successful Aging among Senior Immigrants in France: Life-course Perspective and Challenges of Discontinuity

Since the late 1980s, the concept of ‘successful ageing’ has set the frame for discourse about contemporary ageing research (Bülow & Söderqvist, 2014). The issues of Healthy Aging represent one major public health challenge for post-industrial societies (Balard, 2013). Successful Aging and the gerontological models to which it relates (active aging) emphasize the interdependence of the individual experience of aging with the life-course perspective. Furthermore, all individuals are not equal regarding the successful aging. Considering the economic inequalities and the life-course trajectories, elderly immigrants are more exposed to vulnerabilities. Indeed, their life courses related to the experiences of migrations created more discontinuities, and could be considered as disadvantages in terms of successful aging component. This communication maps out the situation of elderly immigrants in France regarding the main component of healthy aging. We will focus on the interdependency of aging, cultural heritages and life-course. Critical analysis of this successful paradigm of aging

Ľubica Voľanská

Who Cares?

Intergenerational Relationships in Families in Bratislava and Vienna as Reflected in the Autobiographical Texts

provides another path to interrogate the experiences of the aging process of immigrant seniors in France. We are re-conceptualizing the vulnerability framework, in order to propose a dynamic model of vulnerability associated with the life-course to capture the challenges of healthy and successful aging for vulnerable seniors.

Mathilde Plard is a CNRS researcher at ESO laboratory, Nantes University. Her research focuses plural experiences of elders from the life course transition perspective. **Aurélien Martineau** is a PhD candidate in social geography at the ESO laboratory – University of Angers (France). Social worker by training, he began his PhD under the supervision of Mathilde Plard to understand the situation of elderly immigrants in France. He is especially interested in qualitative methods and life-course perspective.

The paper explores how the intergenerational relationships and co-operation in family are reflected in the narratives of old people living nowadays in Bratislava and Vienna, using the “giving voice perspective”. Most of the autobiographical texts and various forms of life records from Bratislava come from my field research, the texts from Vienna I obtained from the archive Documentation of Life Records (University of Vienna) and my own research in the past decade. The comparative research seems to be one of the most suitable methods for understanding of the effects that cultural traditions and social context have on the studied phenomenon. The research includes also a historical dimension, which provides the view on who elderly people nowadays are and how they came to be who they are. The basic assumption related to the diversity of the texts from both cities is connected to the different traditional family structures in Austria and Slovakia in the past as well as to the fact, that both countries became, for the most of the second half of the twentieth century parts of different socio-political systems – configuration of the states di-

vided by the “iron curtain“. Using various concepts (intimacy at distance, intergenerational ambivalence, individual time -family time- historical time relationship, generational skip, etc.) I explore: (1) the reflections of the ways of cooperation between the generations within family related to the transfer of the help in both ways (from younger to older, from older to younger), (2) the reflections of the cooperation between the generations concerning the care of the elderly but also the upbringing of the children. It should be examined how, and under what conditions, the care and different forms of cooperation work well, who is involved and how and what support networks are helpful in specific life situation.

Mgr. Ľubica Voľanská, PhD. studied Ethnology and History at the Faculty of Arts of Comenius University in Bratislava as well as Vienna University. She works at the Institute of Ethnology, Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava as a researcher. Her major fields of interest cover old age, ageing and elderly people, (auto)biographical research, family, historical anthropology and intangible cultural heritage. Please find more information about projects, teaching experience and publications on: <http://www.uet.sav.sk/?q=en/lubica-volanska-herzanova-mgr-phd>

Panel 11

IT/Media I

📅 Thursday, April 27 / ⌚ 14:00–15:30 / 🏠 SR C1

Chair: *Andreas Schuch*

Participants: *Christoffer Bagger, Roxana Barrantes, Daniela Ugarte, Maja Klausen, Sigal Naim*

Christoffer Bagger

Elderly and IT Education – The Instructor Perspective

The results of several reports suggest that a large number of Danes, particularly the elderly, are resistant to using computer services and some have never used them. While some may be aided or nudged by their family or friends, a large number of elders also attend IT-courses specifically aimed at their age group. Thus far, little academic attention has been given to these courses. This study will perform a qualitative inquiry into a selection of IT-courses in Denmark, focusing specifically on the instructors and intending to illuminate a number of related questions:

- ▶ Who are the people teaching these courses, specifically in terms of their background and qualifications?
- ▶ What approach do they take to the teaching of the elders, in terms of planning and prioritizing lessons and their content?
- ▶ What problems (if any) do they see the elders are facing; which have gone unaddressed and what solutions are they proposing in solving these issues?

The method will be a combination of qualitative, semi-structured interviews (Kvale, 1994) with the course instructors, as well as observations of course

sessions. The theoretical framework will be a combination of the framework of “digital general education” (da: “Digital dannelse”, cf. Brøndum Petersen et al 2015), and the theoretical framework of andragogy (Knowles et al 2005) which holds that a pupil’s motivations and needs change over the course of a life-time. (The purpose will be to see if these two approaches, each important in their own way, but thus far uncombined.) The two approaches are important in their own way and, as they have never been combined, the purpose of this article is to see how successful and innovative the two approaches are in combination with one another.

Christoffer Bagger is a research assistant at the University of Copenhagen, and currently part of the research project Ageing and old age in the media and elderly people’s media use lead by associate Professor Christa Lykke Christensen. His research interests include the processes of learning about and with the media. He has worked for years with teaching children about media production and media work, and his current project is particularly concerned with how this unfolds around the elderly in Denmark.

Roxana Barrantes and Daniela Ugarte

Internet Appropriation among the Elderly: Challenges Posed by Informal Economies in Three Cities in Latin America

For all its potential benefits, use and appropriation of the Internet by the elderly lags behind that of other adults. But the elderly constitute analytical category that is wide enough. Besides age differences that could enable us to separate elders of 75 (or 10 years after retirement) from those older than that, there is another set of difference coming from the work experience before retirement that could be the key in explaining further Internet take-up and intensity of use in later life. Using qualitative and quantitative data collected in three cities in Latin America (Buenos Aires and Lima), this paper discusses how those elders coming into retirement from jobs in the informal economy are at a disadvantage when compared to those coming from more formal and education-demanding jobs. Exclusion from the information society extends beyond retirement for individuals coming from less productive jobs, thus raising attention to policies targeted at different sets of individuals.

Maja Klausen

Citizenship and Old Age in a Mediatized Denmark: Elderly People's Experiences with Mandatory Digital Communication with the Public Sector

Roxana Barrantes, Economist, B.S. Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú; PhD, University of Illinois at Urbana –Champaign. Professor, Department of Economics, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú. Associate Researcher at the Institute of Peruvian Studies (Instituto de Estudios Peruanos). Currently, she serves as Chief of Staff of the Ministry of Energy and Mining of Peru, board member of Petroperu and as member of the Court Dispute Resolution of the Supervisory Agency for Investment in Public Transportation Infrastructure (OSITRAN in Spanish). **Daniela Ugarte**, Sociologist by the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú. She is research assistant of the Institute of Peruvian Studies (Instituto de Estudios Peruanos) and teacher assistant in the Department of Social Sciences of the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú. She works in research projects on appropriations and uses of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) by different social actors and the role of ICTs in public policies today.

The paper presents findings from an ethnographic research project investigating how elderly people (65+) deal with and experience the mediatization of the Danish public sector in their everyday lives. In 2011 the Danish government agreed on an eGovernment strategy implying that 80% of the communication between citizen and public authorities should be digital by 2015. We are thus in 2016 witnessing a situation where a large group of elderly with poor or no IT-skills are forced to communicate digitally with the public sector. How do the elderly deal with this situation? How does it affect the elderly person's self-image and experience of citizenship? Often an acquaintance or family member will assist the elderly in communicating digitally, which raises similar questions: How is the relation between the elderly and the family member/acquaintance affected? Is the elderly's experience of privacy compromised, as private documents regarding health and finances are shared with a third party, i.e. the person helping out? This paper combines cultural gerontology (Twigg & Martin 2015; Gilleard & Higgs 2015; (Gullette) 1997, 2013) with critical

Sigal Naim

Facebook as a Quality of Life Technology in Old Age

mediatization theory (Jansson 2015; Hepp 2012) allowing for a nuanced approach to aspects tied to old age and ageing in relation to media use. This interdisciplinary framework highlights how mediatization processes both confirm and negotiate culturally shaped views on old age and elderly people. Drawing on an ethnographic fieldwork, the paper shows how mandatory digital communication with public authorities affects the elderly person's life, self-image, experience of being a citizen and relation to the family members or others assisting with the communication.

Maja Klausen, Ph.D, is a Post Doc at University of Copenhagen and part of the Velux-funded project Ageing and old age in the media and elderly people's media use lead by associate Professor Christa Lykke Christensen. Maja Klausen's project examines the impact of mandatory digital communication with public authorities on elderly people's lives, self-image and experience of citizenship. Research interests revolve around media – and cultural studies and ethnography.

This study aimed to explore the experience of Facebook use among older individuals. The study applied a mixed method approach combining media ethnography, netnography and in-depth interviews with 30 male and female Facebook users aged 65 years and above. Findings indicated that the more experience the participants had in using the online social network, the more astute was their usage of it. Patterns of behavior that had served them in their daily lives were introduced into the online world. It appeared that the research participants maintained contact with friends and family members through the new media exactly as they had done through the old media (e.g., telephone) or face-to-face conversations. In addition, it was clear that participants' offline activities continued online, and vice-versa – that the use of Facebook often supported and affected the offline activities. Facebook usage was embedded in everyday life and became two-directional in supplementing the activities in both dimensions of life – the online and the offline. This demonstrated that it has become an integral part of seniors' lives. Facebook is one of the possibilities among a variety of technological options that require adjustment on one hand, and conducting a complex interaction with the daily lives of the users on the other. Thus, it may be perceived as a tool that is meant to assist daily life and to carry out certain aims.

Sigal Naim is a gerontologist, a doctoral student in the department of communication studies, Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Be'er Sheva, Israel. She is also a lecturer at the department of Human services, Yezreel Academic College, Israel. Her areas of research are: elder abuse and neglect, including self-neglect, quality of life in old age, new media and social network sites in old age, and qualitative research methods. She is involved in several research projects on family relations and caregiving, accessibility and use of health services by older Jews and Arabs, Ageism and elders' portraits in the media.

Panel 12

Assistance and Care

📅 Thursday, April 27 / 🕒 14:00–15:30 / 🏠 SR C2

Chair: Ofra Or

Participants: Christine Kelly, Amelia DeFalco, Ulrike Bechtold,
Leo Capari, Sarmishta Bhattacharyya,
Susan Mary Benbow, Eve Collins

Christine Kelly

Crippling Care amid Policy Change: Self-managed Home Care for Older Adults in Ontario, Canada

Critical disability studies and disability activism continually work to challenge and transform dominant forms of 'care.' These efforts represent a subversive and generative 'cripping' of mainstream understandings of a commonly used concept. Crippling care intervenes theoretically in interdisciplinary academic debates about the nature of care, insistently demonstrating the ways in which care can be patronizing, oppressive, and seeped in misguided charitable and medical frameworks, as well as an essential, life-sustaining relational practice of interdependency. In policy spheres, crippling care results in tangible calls for deinstitutionalization, independent living and, most notably, self-managed home care.

Self-managed home care is a popular policy mechanism that provides funds directly to individuals to find, train and manage workers to support them with daily activities. Self-managed home care is intricately linked to disability politics throughout the global north. While representing an important response to calls from disability activists and a mechanism to relieve strained home care systems, it is a controversial move that dramatically alters the working and living conditions of home care in both transformative and challenging ways.

This paper crips care in the context of support for older adults, and presents the findings of a public domain analysis that explores emerging policy directive to expand self-managed home care to older adults in Ontario, Canada. The Ontario case has long standing programs for people with physical and intellectual disabilities linked to local disability organizing. In more recent years, the provincial government announced intent to expand this option to older people, although the implementation has been stymied by procedural delays and political hesitations. This paper seeks the crippled echoes in these policy discourses, while attending to self-managed home care as a neoliberal yet paradoxically empowering model of service delivery.

Christine Kelly, PhD is an Assistant Professor in Community Health Sciences at the University of Manitoba. Dr. Kelly's research explores the politics of care, Canadian disability movements and intersections of disability studies and aging studies. She is co-editor of *Mobilizing Metaphor: Art, Culture and Disability Activism in Canada* (UBC Press, 2016) and author of *Disability Politics and Care: The Challenge of Direct Funding* (UBC Press, 2016). She presently leads a qualitative study on self-managed home care for older adults in Ontario, funded by a Canadian Institutes of Health Research Project Scheme grant. For more information see www.christinekelly.ca

Amelia DeFalco

Real Humans = Real Care? – Affective Economies and Robot Eldercare in Real Humans

This paper will consider a central question underpinning the Swedish television program *Real Humans* (2012-2014), which imagines a world in which humanoid robots, or hubots, have become ordinary and ubiquitous: what happens when we treat machines like people, and people like machines? In the program, humanoid robots are used for a variety of “menial” tasks, including factory work, sex work, housekeeping, childcare, and eldercare. Its representations of posthuman care highlight many of the ethical and political issues central to the study of aging, vulnerability, and care. In particular, my inquiry will consider the ways *Real Humans* explores and exploits the gendered and racialized affective economies that structure care work in the developed world, economies that depend on the emotional and physical labor of marginalized workers. In its depictions of human-like machines tasked with giving care, *Real Human* exposes the cultural denigration of care work, the dismissal of particular bodies (elderly, racialized, gendered) as peripheral and disposable. The robots distributed for care, along with the humans they care for, most often children, the elderly, and “needy women,” suggest a provocative affinity between diverse vulnerable bodies – old, young and mechanical.

The program raises the possibility of a paradoxical entity, the affective machine. If, as affect theorists, suggest, affects are the unpredictable out-

Ulrike Bechtold & Leo Capari

Social Attributions and Active Assisted Living (AAL)

comes of the interactions of bodies and worlds, machines designed and programmed to ensure predictability and eliminate risk seem poor candidates for affective capacities. However, the hubots in *Real Humans* implicitly challenge the exclusive association of organic bodies with affects, conjuring forms of mechanical dynamism, machines able to affect and be affected in ways that destabilize boundaries between human/non-human.

This paper will consider how the imaginary post human effects depicted in *Real Humans* can assist us in analyzing the political and ethical implications of existing robots designed for care, such as *Paro*, *GiraffePlus*, and *Care-o-bot 4*. The program reveals how caregiving machines perpetuate the exploitation and marginalization central to affective economies built on the undervaluation of care and the denigration of dependency.

Amelia DeFalco is University Academic Fellow in Medical Humanities in the School of English, University of Leeds. She is author of *Uncanny Subjects: Aging in Contemporary Narrative* (Ohio State University Press, 2010), *Imagining Care: Responsibility, Dependency, and Canadian Literature* (University of Toronto Press, 2016), along with essays on literature and aging, dementia, disability, and the ethics of care.

It is widely assumed among European policy makers and engineers that technologies for „Active Assisted Living“ (AAL) can contribute to tackle the Grand Challenge of demographic change. Yet, it is worthwhile to ask what exactly the respective challenges are, which we aim to solve on a technological level – in form of assistive technologies (AT). The promises are manifold: technology shall relieve an economic burden, develop new markets and the European individuals shall enjoy better, healthier and more active ageing. Neven (2015)¹ identifies the so called triple-win rhetoric, which says that there are only winners when technology allows, that the elderly (1) stay longer and (2) with more quality of life at home and so contribute to (3) relief the state budget. So far, it is rarely questioned, whether these promises are merely attributions or if these hopes (of different actors) may become true (for whom)?

To do so, it is firstly important to identify and understand the attributions (hopes and expectations) which are given AAL. Secondly it seems appropriate to look at the technology development processes and to scrutinize to which extent AAL is developed and applied in regard to these attributions? To do so the call texts of the AAL joint programme (<http://www.>

¹ Neven, L. 2015. By any means? Questioning the link between gerontechnological innovation and older people's wish to live at home. *Technological Forecasting & Social Change* 93 (2015) 32-43.

aal-europe.eu/) from 2008 to 2016 shall be analyzed. The attributions as found there shall be highlighted and analyzed in the light of the following questions:

- ▶ What are the (future) imaginaries which are used for ATs?
- ▶ What are the problems identified which arise in the development of AT (innovation side) and in the application of technology and adoption (diffusion) and what about ways to cope with this?
- ▶ What does this mean for dealing with the GC of demographic change?

Ulrike Bechtold holds a master's degree and a PhD in Human Ecology. In 2007, she joined the ITA where she is currently working in the area of sustainability and technology. The main topics of her work embrace ambient and active assisted living (AAL), participatory approaches and climate technologies. Central to her methodology are the development of sustainability options, requirements for sustainability processes, and participatory approaches to investigate the crossroads between man, nature and technology. **Leo Capari** is human ecologist, and since July 2013 he works as a researcher at the Institute of technology assessment. So far he has worked in several projects on Assistive technologies or Ambient Assisted Living (AAL) and their societal, ethical, economic and technological implications in context of demographic change and in the context of disabilities. He applied qualitative methods (participatory foresight) and quantitative methods (questionnaires) for a variety of relevant actors (i.e. stakeholders, experts, users) during this project.

Sarmishta Bhattacharyya, Susan Mary Benbow, Eve Collins

Living and Dying Well with Dementia – A Mobile App to Improve Understanding of End of Life Care in Dementia

In England, Wales and Northern Ireland, Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) have been carried out since April 2011 under the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act (2004), when the death of a person (aged over 16 years) results from violence, abuse or neglect by either a person to whom the victim was related, or with whom the victim had an intimate personal relationship, or by a member of the same household. DHRs review the circumstances of the death and identify learning. We have identified thirty DHR reports published up until May 2015 in England and involving a person aged over 60 years as victim or alleged perpetrator or both, by submitting freedom of information requests to the local authorities. The reports have been analyzed qualitatively in order to extract common themes/ learning, and divided into those where the victim was aged 60 plus; the alleged perpetrator was aged 60 plus; and where both victim and alleged perpetrator were aged 60 plus. We also identified a subset of Reports involving murder-suicides. Important themes include: communication/ information sharing between agencies;

differing perceptions of older people/ ageism; risk assessment of older adults; the stresses of care-giving; the role of safeguarding in relation to perceived mental capacity. Domestic homicides are part of the spectrum of violence involving older people. Every case is a tragedy for family and friends. It is important to understand common features involved in the events themselves and the responses of services in an endeavor to prevent future violence involving older adults.

Susan Mary Benbow is Visiting Professor of Mental Health & Ageing at the Centre for Ageing Studies, University of Chester, and Director of Older Mind Matters Ltd. She writes a lot, regularly presents at regional, national and international meetings, is involved in memory clinic services, practises as a registered systemic psychotherapist, teaches a range of students, and is partner/ clinical advisor to a number of research projects.

Sharmi Bhattacharyya is a Consultant Old Age Psychiatrist in North Wales, U.K. and Honorary Senior Lecturer at University of Chester, U.K. She

enjoys teaching and has publications and presentations in her areas of interest which include mental health in BME elderly, Young Onset Dementias, Mental Health Act and Mental Capacity Act in UK.

Eve Collins is the Deputy Head of the Dept. of Social Work and Inter professional Education at the University of Chester. She entered academia in 2000 after spending her early career as an adult nurse working in critical care. Her research and writing interests are best described as eclectic and in recent years she developed a special interest in the use of mobile technology in health care education. In 2014 she had the privilege of leading two exciting projects aimed at devising Technology Enhanced Learning resources, one of which involved working with a broad range of clinical experts and academic colleagues to develop the Living and Dying Well with dementia Mobile application.

The Lived Neighbourhood: Understanding how People with Dementia and Their Carers Engage with Their Local Environments

📅 Thursday, April 27 / ⌚ 16:00–17:30 / 🏠 SR KW 12

Chair: Marjorie Silverman

Participants: Kirstein Rummery, John Keady, Marjorie Silverman,
Elaine Wiersma, Kainde Manji, Sarah Campbell,
Agneta Kullberg, Andrew Clark

In this symposium we explore the role and experience of neighbourhood for people affected by dementia. We draw together research from different parts of the world with a shared concern for the dynamic relationship between the social and material environment, and how this alters over time in the context of living with a dementia. The symposium will report findings from on-going research, highlighting methodological and conceptual issues and will consider the implications for the now policy-prominent notion of the 'dementia-friendly community'. We hope that comparisons drawn between similar research from different regions will create opportunities to understand what is specific to particular neighbourhoods and the features and experiences that are shared and more commonplace.

We begin with a reflection on how our research sheds light on efforts to re-think and theorise neighbourhoods, in ways that better reflect the experience and perspectives of people with dementia. Subsequent papers draw upon data from Canada, Sweden, England and Scotland to consider the ways that people engage with the actual properties and attributes of their neighbourhoods in the course of everyday living. We offer insights into the process by which people balance their capabilities, capacities and competencies with the environments they inhabit, accessing different forms of capital and exploiting the material and social affordances that exist at a local level. The papers in this session will pay particular attention to the relationship that people enjoy with the more immediate environment that exists both within the homespace and just beyond their front-door; a world that is familiar and well-trodden but also very much part of the public realm. In doing so, we argue for the importance of attending to the lived experience of place and space, which has the potential to provide vital insights into our understanding of the dementia-friendly community and the role of the neighbourhood within it.

Kirstein Rummery & John Keady

Towards a Social Model of Neighbourhoods? Theoretical Challenges from Dementia Research



Neighbourhoods' have long been recognised as not simply geographical spaces or the built environment, but as having a social context and environmental context. The 'Dementia Friendly Neighbourhoods' projects seek to identify which components of the social and environmental contexts of neighbourhoods can make them accessible to people with dementia. However, the theoretical and empirical considerations of the experiences of people with dementia throw up challenges to the sociological approaches to neighbourhoods. This paper draws on disability and gerontology models to attempt to re-conceptualise the idea of the 'neighbourhood' to take into account these challenges. What is the relationship between the biological model of dementia and its associated impairments, and a social model understanding of the way in which environmental and social barriers 'disable' people experiencing illness and impairments? Does this help us to find a new way of theorising neighbourhoods in a way that takes into account the social, environmental and cultural barriers experienced by people with dementia in their neighbourhoods? The authors conclude by synthesising a new theoretical approach to understanding 'neighbourhoods' which can inform future empirical work in this area.

Kirstein Rummery is Professor of Social Policy and has written about welfare partnerships and governance, particularly those involving health and social care services. She is interested in issues concerning citizenship, social participation and access to services, particularly for disabled and older people. Her research also concerns gender, particularly the way in which welfare policies affect older and disabled women.

John Keady is Professor of Older People's Mental Health Nursing and is founding Co-editor of *Dementia: the international journal of social research and practice*. He is a member of INTERDEM: the European forum for early intervention in dementia, Alzheimer's Disease International, the Alzheimer's Society and the International Risk Network. John trained as a mental health nurse and held a number of clinical appointments before moving into academia. His research is largely qualitative, involving studies of early awareness and adjustment, family coping, palliative care and professional roles.

Marjorie Silverman & Elaine Wiersma

“We have different routes for different reasons”: The Purpose of Walks for Carers of People with Dementia

Drawing on findings from the first part of a Canadian-based study exploring the everyday experiences of place, space and neighbourhood of carers of people with dementia, this paper sheds light on the purpose of walks for co-residing dementia carers.

Within the vast interdisciplinary literatures on walking, dementia and caregiving, there is very little scholarship linking these domains from the perspective of everyday lived experiences. This research aimed to bridge that gap by investigating how dementia carers perceive and engage with the physical, social and emotional elements of their neighbourhood. The research used three distinct methods of data collection – social network mapping, walking interviews and photo elicitation – in order to access multiple angles of carers’ realities. The findings revealed that going on walks reinforced carers’ connections to the person with dementia, as well as to their social network and to the built and natural environment of their neighbourhoods. Walks also gave carers the sense that they were maintaining their individual identity as well as that of the person with dementia.

These findings link these walks to carers’ need to preserve social capital and social citizenship. They also lead us to interrogate key concepts such as place attachment, risk and resistance.

Marjorie Silverman is an Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work at the University of Ottawa in Canada. She is a social gerontologist who specializes in the area of family caregiving.

Elaine Wiersma is associate Professor in Health Sciences with a particular interest in issues of ageing including dementia. Her recent work has focused upon dementia friendly communities in rural areas.

Kainde Manji, Sarah Campbell, Agneta Kullberg

Home and Away: The Dialogue between Home and Neighbourhood in the Lives of People with Dementia and Their Carers

As the care and support of people with dementia shifts from institutional settings to the community, the home has increasingly become a focus for attention for dementia policy and the delivery of care services. However, little is known of the day-to-day experience of home-life for people with dementia beyond this care and support paradigm. This paper draws on data from three fieldsites in Scotland, England and Sweden where we undertook home-tour interviews with people with dementia and carers. Participants were offered a choice of either being filmed or audio-recorded as they showed us about their homespace, describing the objects within it and the domestic practices that were expressive of their identities, values and sense of belonging. We found that the relationship of home to neighbourhood is a porous one; as a person's experience of neighbourhood alters over time the home can take on new meanings. Hence, for many participants in our research the neighbourhood and home were in dialogue, the home serving an important role in accommodating people's response to their neighbourhood and the

demands it made upon them. In light of these findings we argue for the value of recognising this dynamic relationship, and the fluid meanings that home and neighbourhood consequently hold for the person with dementia.

Kainde Manji, Sarah Campbell and Agneta Kullberg are the lead fieldsite researchers on the 'Neighbourhoods: our people, our places' project (Scotland, England and Sweden). The project has two main phases, the first of which involves gathering data using participatory methods involving people with dementia and their carers. In the second phase, we will be piloting and evaluating a neighbourhood-based intervention informed by findings from the research.

Andrew Clark

Neighbourhoods as Context: Findings from an International Study of How People with Dementia Experience Neighbourhood Life

Using the lived experiences and daily realities of people living with dementia as a starting point, this paper contributes new understanding about the relevance of local places for supporting the aging process. While there is work on the design of the physical or material environment, attention has rarely focused on the subjective, experiential and 'everyday' practices that contextualise neighbourhood life for people living with dementia. The paper reports on findings from an international study of the neighbourhood experiences of people living with dementia. It draws on data collected from a creative blend of qualitatively-driven mixed methods with people with dementia and their care partners who are living independently in a variety of urban and rural neighbourhoods in England, Scotland and Sweden. The findings outline the implications of material, social and biographical aspects of neighbourhood life for living well with dementia. The paper argues that neighbourhoods are experienced as relational places, and that people living with dementia contribute to the production of such neighbourhoods as active place-makers

in ways that are beneficial to their sense of wellbeing. The paper thus extends the theoretical and methodological understandings of the contextual relevance of neighbourhoods not just in the case of people living with dementia, but for geographies of aging more widely.

Andrew Clark is Reader in Sociology. Central to his work is a demonstrable commitment to inter – and trans –disciplinary research activity and the benefits this can bring to understanding real world problems and issues. Recent theoretically informed empirical research has addressed issues of dementia care; sustainable energy futures; perceptions of fire-risk; university leadership and academic enterprise; and youth and engagement. Andrew is fieldsite lead for Manchester on the Neighbourhoods: our people, our places project.

Panel 14

Aging in Unexpected and Everyday Places

📅 Thursday, April 27 / ⌚ 16:00–17:30 / 🏠 SR KW 21

Chair: Shannon Hebblethwaite

Participants: Constance Lafontaine, Wendy Martin,
Shannon Hebblethwaite

This interdisciplinary panel brings together scholars from diverse fields who reflect on innovative case studies to draw attention to the intersections of aging and place. We premise our work on the assertion that modernity has led to a focus on time and space, neglecting place and the meanings attached to it. Yi-Fu Tuan (1976) called for a “return to place”, and began to explore the subjective experience of place as an object of study in its own right. Tuan (1977) suggested that “What begins as undifferentiated space becomes place as we get to know it better and endow it with value” (p. 6). Space has absolute and relative dimensions, and concrete boundaries, whereas place emerges only when space is endowed with meaning from an individual or community. Place results from experiences and the emotion embedded within those experiences in the social context. Acknowledging place as a state of mind helps us to understand how different contexts affect people in different ways.

Faced with transformations such as migration, globalization, environmental degradation, climate change, the digital revolution and the information-age economy, we question how these forces impact the geographical and cultural cues that help us to orient ourselves meaningfully in the world. Our work provides opportunities to engage in critical reflections on aging and place in innovative ways that move beyond the gerontological discourse of aging IN place, to a more nuanced understanding of aging AND place, with particular attention to the meanings associated with personal, family, and community places.

It has been suggested that older people “occupy, utilize and experience environments in ways distinctly linked to the ageing process” (Sylvestre, 1999). We argue that it is necessary to move beyond analysis of the spatial patterns of older people to understand the importance of place and place attachment in their lives as they age. Space cannot be disassociated from the cultural practices of the people who use the space and define the place.

This interdisciplinary panel brings together international researchers to explore experiences of aging and place from the perspective of sociology, communication studies, art therapy, and leisure studies.

Lafontaine engages in a critical exploration of the “bucket list” in relation to aging as a motivation for adventure tourism. Her work explores the normative assumptions of active aging and consumption and the ways in which aging is enmeshed with the aging of places and the transformation of natural landscapes.

By reflecting on a cross-cultural, comparative case study of grandmothers’ use of Facebook in family communication, Hebblethwaite and Ivan develop a more detailed understanding of the role of social media in the lives of older people. They explore the opportunity for social network sites such as Facebook to create a third place for intergenerational relations, endowed with specific emotions, intentions and meanings. Their work highlights opportunities for social media to contribute to generative exchanges between family members both on – and off –line, thereby enhancing social capital.

Further, meaningful place experiences are central to Martin and Pilcher’s exploration of public and private space in everyday life for older people in the UK. Their use of visual diaries illuminated the nuanced, interconnected, and complex construction of older people’s construction of place in their daily lives. Together, these papers point to the importance of place in the aging process.

Constance Lafontaine

Probing the “Bucket List”: Overlapping Temporalities and Late-in-life Adventures

In this paper, I draw on a series of interviews conducted with older adults partaking in an “adventure tourism” holiday in the Canadian subarctic. I focus specifically on the recurring description of their trip as a “bucket list” experience, a term to which older participants overwhelmingly alluded in order to provide an explanation of their motivation for their travel. “Bucket lists” emerged in the last decade in everyday parlance, and are understood to be a compilation of activities in which one wishes to engage before they die. As Gale and Hill (2009) suggest, commonly, bucket lists are dominated by wildlife and adventure-based tourism activities that rely on close and authentic engagements with nature and animals. And indeed, eco-tourism and adventure-based tourism are increasingly popular among older adults, to such an extent that this has led to the emergence niche tourism programs and targeted marketing for seniors. I seek to unpack the term “bucket list” in relation to aging, and to explore the overlapping temporalities at the heart of the concept. On the one hand, the bucket list works to map out desires of later life, and to organize old age through a prism of consumption that reifies norms of active aging through the valorization of the late-in-life adventurer. In the interviews with tourists, the concept of the “bucket list” also became a way of relaying calculations of time and anxieties related to

death and changes in abilities, responsibilities and mobility. On the other hand, the “bucket list” provides insight into the overlapping of human and non-human timescapes, as probing the term with participants’ generated reflections about how their own aging was enmeshed with the aging of places, or the transformation and disappearance of natural landscapes.

Constance Lafontaine is a PhD Candidate in Communication Studies at Concordia University in Montreal, Canada. Her SSHRC-funded research explores visual culture, human-animal encounters and contemporary practices of displaying animals. Her dissertation examines the ways animals are represented through wildlife spectacles within discourses of precarity. She also conducts research on multispecies life courses, and the connections between aging and animality. Constance is the Associate Director of the international research project Ageing, Communication, Technologies (ACT – actproject.ca), and as part of this work, she engages in research creation and participatory action research with seniors in the Montreal community.

Wendy Martin

Visualising Public and Private Space in Everyday Life

This paper draws on data from the empirical research study Photographing Everyday Life: Ageing, Lived Experiences, Time and Space, funded by the ESRC, UK. The focus of the project was to explore the significance of the ordinary and day-to-day, and focus on the everyday meanings, lived experiences, practical activities, and social contexts in which people in mid to later life live their daily lives. The research involved a diverse sample of 62 women and men aged 50 years and over, who took photographs of their different daily routines to create a weekly visual diary. The visual portrayal of public and private space was shown to be significant and included distinctions between private space (e.g. the home), and public space (e.g. work, social spaces, parks, shops). The portrayal of space was moreover nuanced, interconnected and complex, e.g. more photographs were present of ‘public’ areas in a home (e.g. lounge, kitchen), than private areas (e.g. bedroom); some spaces reflected dimensions that are normatively constructed as both public and private (e.g. gardens, some work spaces); as well as the ways participants moved between public and private spaces (e.g. use of transport). Some participants were also noticeably more uncomfortable and reluctant when photographing certain areas, such as work spaces and colleagues, or taking photographs in some public places. The paper concludes by highlighting a complex engagement with space, in which participants drew and re-drew

boundaries surrounding meanings of space, sometimes within the same interview or even within a discussion of the same photograph. This suggests that both spaces and places themselves, together with images of these contexts, have no 'fixed' meaning (Massey, 1994), but rather that meanings are made and re-made in the moments that spaces are both visually depicted and reflected upon.

Dr. **Wendy Martin** is a Senior Lecturer in the College of Health and Life Sciences, Brunel University London, UK. Her research focuses on ageing, embodiment and daily life and the use of visual methods in ageing research. She was Principal Investigator for the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC, UK) research project *Photographing Everyday Life: Ageing, Lived Experiences, Time and Space* and is Co-Investigator for the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) international partnership *Ageing, Communication, Technologies (ACT): experiencing a digital world in later life*. Wendy is Co-Convenor of the British Sociological Association (BSA) Ageing, Body and Society study group and is a Co-Editor of the *Routledge Handbook of Cultural Gerontology* that was published in 2015.

Shannon Hebblethwaite

Grannie's My 'Friend': Facebook as a Digitally-Mediated Third Place

In spite of ageist stereotypes about older people's abilities to engage with new media, grandparents are increasingly engaged with social media. Our paper emerges from a comparative case study of Canadian and Romanian grandmothers' use of Facebook to facilitate family communication with their grandchildren who lived abroad, through the lens of remote grandparenting. We regard challenges over the remote situation as influencing the way in which grandmothers approach new web-based communication platforms in their quest for intimacy and connections with their families. Specifically, this paper explores the opportunity for social network sites to create a third place for intergenerational relations. Our discussion centers on the construction of place as a state of mind, reflective of both cultural and individual identities. We ground our analysis in literature that suggests that space cannot be dissociated from the practice of the people who use and define the place. A sense of place results from experiences and emotions embedded within individuals' experiences in the social context. We explore the opportunity for enhanced social capital through the development of strong intergenerational family ties as mediated by everyday interactions on Facebook.

This need by older people to share small things from their everyday lives with their children and grandchildren constitutes a strong incentive to

go online to communicate. Nevertheless, sharing “everyday routine” is not only emotionally driven and enjoyable but a useful tool to prevent alienation between grandparents and grandchildren. We examine the possibility that Facebook constitutes a third place for family making, affording opportunities for perpetual contact that can assist in engaging grandparents in the everyday lives of their grandchildren. We suggest that this third place is also a key site for the intergenerational transmission of values and the associated opportunities for the development and expression of generativity between grandparents and grandchildren.

Shannon Hebblethwaite is an associate professor in the Department of Applied Human Sciences at Concordia University in Montreal, Canada. With degrees in psychology, recreation and leisure studies, and family relations, Shannon focuses her research on social inclusion of marginalized groups, including older adults, first-time mothers, and persons with disabilities. Her research interests include intergenerational relations and the role of leisure in the lives of older adults. She is the leader of the Agency in Aging stream of the SSHRC funded Ageing + Communication + Technology (ACT) project. Her most recent work has focused on grandmothers’ use of social media in family communication.

Panel 15

Care Home Stories: Challenges, Changes, and Continuities

📅 Thursday, April 27 / ⌚ 16:00–17:30 / 🏠 Conference Hall

Chairs: Ulla Kriebnerneegg and Sally Chivers

*Participants: Chris Gilleard, Paul Higgs, Anne Wyatt-Brown,
Ulla Kriebnerneegg, Sally Chivers*

institutional care for seniors offers a cultural repository for fears and hopes about an aging population. Enormous changes have occurred in how institutional care is structured, but the legacies of the poor house persist, creating panicked views of the nursing home as a dreaded fate. The paradoxical nature of a space meant to be both hospital and home, offers up critical tensions for examination by age studies scholars. This panel challenges stereotypes of institutional care for older adults, illustrates the changes that have occurred over time, and illuminates the continuities in the stories we tell about nursing homes.

Chris Gilleard & Paul Higgs

The Enveloping Shadow: The Contribution of the Nursing Homes to the Social Imaginary of the Fourth Age

in outlining an approach to understanding the changing nature of later life in contemporary societies we have developed arguments about the differing nature of the third and fourth ages. While the former can be usefully understood as a cultural field where diverse later life identities can flourish, the latter is better conceptualised as a social imaginary where the most feared aspects of an old age defined by decline, dependency and the loss of agency reside. A number of components constitute this social imaginary, including a decline in social agency, the emergence of physical frailty, the risk of abjection and becoming subject to the imperative of care. These themes make up the core imaginary of the fourth age in contemporary society, situating not only those who risk becoming defined by it, but also those who fear its encroachment.

The nursing home has come to play an important role within this social imaginary, incorporating many of the negative connotations of what could be described as ‘unsuccessful ageing’; often in spite of the efforts of the institution to combat such conclusions. We argue that the ‘densification’

of disability that has taken place within the care home sector has meant that the fears of old age around physical and cognitive dependency are increasingly realised within it, affecting not only the residents but those who fear becoming future residents. We recognise that there are counter-vailing forms of resistance to the effects and practices engendered by this social imaginary that are undertaken by older people and their families, as well as by the care staff themselves. What we wish to draw attention to in this contribution, however, is the pivotal role played by the nursing home in articulating the fourth age and the practices that play out under its shadow and the contradictions caught up in its denial.

Chris Gilleard is a visiting research fellow in the Division of Psychiatry, University College London. His work with his fellow author, Paul Higgs, is concerned with theorising changes and continuities in the articulation, experience and social realisation of later life in contemporary society. **Paul Higgs** is professor of Sociology of Ageing at UCL. His research interests stem from

work he conducted with Dr Chris Gilleard which has been published in four books 'Cultures of ageing: Self citizen and society' (2000) and 'Contexts of ageing: Class, cohort and community' (2005). From 2005–2008 he directed an ESRC/AHRC funded project 'From passive to active consumers: Older people's consumption 1998–2001'. He also co-authored a book 'Medical sociology and old age' (2009) with Ian Rees Jones of Cardiff University. Another two books with Chris Gilleard have been published in recent years: 'Ageing, corporeality and embodiment (2013) and 'Rethinking old age: Theorising the fourth age (2015) as well as a book on social class and later life edited with Marvin Formosa. From 2009 to 2011 he was a co-organiser of an ESRC funded seminar series on 'new ageing populations'. He is currently a co-investigator on two 5 year NIHR/ESRC projects (MARQUE and PRIDE) investigating the social aspects of dementia. Professor Higgs is also an editor of the journal 'Social Theory and Health' as well as co-editor of the 2017 'Sociology of Health and Illness' monograph which addresses the topic of dementia and the social mind.

Anne M. Wyatt-Brown

Life in a CCRC: On Not Being Invisible

We may not be aware of this when we first move in, but those of us in a CCRC have traded autonomy for the promise of long-term care. In time, we may become dependent on our institution's employees. It helps if we have moved in early enough to learn who is reliable. Some employees behave like Atul Gawande (*Being Mortal*, 2014), who learned that he could not help patients unless he asked what made surviving worthwhile; others do not. Occasionally, something unexpected can upset the equilibrium of the place. Then our emotions can fluctuate as we respond to changing circumstances, just as the emotions of a fictional character do, Olive Kitteridge, the protagonist of Elizabeth Strout's 2008 novel. Several things have caused recent fluctuating emotions. A few months ago, a resident decided to move out less than a year after she had moved in. We were upset until we learned that she was uncomfortable around disabled people. A second destabilizing factor has been changing personnel in the fitness center, a place where I spend a good bit of time. To complicate matters even more, the board decided that we need to "reposition" the building and add on new apartments. That will involve a considerable upheaval for several years as the work progresses. On the whole, however, what makes the place work is the comfort of friendship. Unlike younger people who can make older people feel invisible (Angell, 2014), fellow residents offer condolences and good wishes in times

of trouble because they know how we feel as we go through the sometimes difficult changes of our lives.

Anne M. Wyatt-Brown is an Emeritus Associate Professor in the Program in Linguistics, University of Florida. Her degrees include, A. B., Radcliffe College, Harvard University, 1961, M.A.T., The Johns Hopkins University, 1962, and PhD. in English, Case Western Reserve University, 1972. She joined the Gerontological Society of America in 1983 and was elected a fellow of the Gerontological Society of America in 1999. Editor of *Age Studies*, a book series for the University Press of Virginia from 1993–2001, she has served on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Aging Studies*, *International Journal of Aging and Human Development*, and *Psyart: The Journal*. From 2005–2010, she was co-editor of the *Journal of Aging, Humanities, and the Arts* published by Routledge and sponsored by the Gerontological Society of America. Her books are *Barbara Pym: A Critical Biography* (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1992), *Aging and Gender in Literature: Studies in Creativity* (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1993), a co-edited collection, and *The Big Move: Life Between the Turning Points* (Bloomington and Indianapolis, Indiana University Press, 2016) with Ruth Ray Karpen, Helen Q. Kivnick, and Margaret Morganroth Gullette. In 1995 she was guest editor of *Creativity in the Face of Death* for the *Journal of*

Sally Chivers & Ulla Kriebner

Care Home Stories: Aging, Disability, and Long-Term Residential Care

Aging Studies 4 (Winter) and in 2003 guest editor of *Generations for Listening to Older People's Stories* (27, 3). Professor Wyatt-Brown's essays have appeared in *The Gerontologist*, *Generations*, *Journal of Aging Studies*, *Aging and Identity*, *Psychohistory Review*, and *The Journal of Modern Literature*. "Aging and Literature," a major essay review, has appeared in the *Encyclopedia of Aging* (Macmillan, 2002). She also has articles in the two editions of the *Handbook of Humanities and Aging* (Springer, 1992 & 2000), and one on psychoanalysis and teaching writing in *Transitional Objects and Potential Spaces: Literary Uses of D. W. Winnicott* (1993). A literature review on aging and literature appeared in *The Oxford Companion to Women's Writing in the United States* (1995). Dr. Wyatt-Brown has also published (with Barbara Waxman) *Brief Bibliography: a Selected Bibliography for Gerontological Instruction*. Aging in Literature. Association for Gerontology in Higher Education, 1999. "Literary Representation of Aging" appeared in 2007 in Birren, James (Ed.). *Encyclopedia of Gerontology: Age, Aging, and the Aged*, 2nd Edition, Vol. 2, pp. 85–92. Oxford, UK: Elsevier Ltd. "Resilience and Creativity in Aging: The Realms of Silver" was published in Cole, Thomas R., Ruth E. Ray, and Robert Kastenbaum (Eds). *A Guide to Humanistic Studies in Aging: What Does It Mean to Grow Old?*, pp. 57–92. Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins Press, 2010.

institutional care for seniors offers a cultural repository for fears and hopes about an aging population. Although enormous changes have occurred in how institutional care is structured, the legacies of the poorhouse still persist, creating panicked views of the nursing home as a dreaded fate. The paradoxical nature of a space meant to be both hospital and home offers up critical tensions for examination by age studies scholars.

This paper challenges stereotypes of institutional care for older adults, illustrating the changes that have occurred over time, and illuminating the continuities in the stories we tell about nursing homes.

Sally Chivers is Professor in the department of English and of Gender and Women's Studies at Trent University, where she is also a founding executive member of the Trent Centre for Aging and Society. She is the author of *From Old Woman to Older Women: Contemporary Culture and Women's Narratives* (2003, Ohio State UP) and *The Silvering Screen: Old Age and Disability in Cinema* (2011, U of Toronto P). With Nicole Markotic, she co-edited *The Problem Body: Projecting Disability on Film* (2010, Ohio State UP). She is a member of the international interdisciplinary research team, "Reimagine Long-Term Residential Care: An International Study of Promising Practices,"

currently has funding to study “Challenging the ‘Nursing Home Specter’ in the Age of Austerity,” and is working on a collection of essays entitled *Care Home Stories: Challenges, Changes, and Continuities*, co-edited with Ulla Kriebnernegg for publication in the Aging Studies series of Transcript Verlag. Dr. **Ulla Kriebnernegg** is Associate Professor at the Center for Inter-American Studies (C.IAS) at the University of Graz, Austria. She studied English and American Studies and German Philology at the University of Graz and at University College Dublin, Ireland and holds a master’s and a doctoral degree from the University of Graz. Her emphasis in research and teaching is on (Inter-)American literary and cultural studies, interculturality, Jewish migrations to the Americas, age/aging studies and US and European higher education policy. Her current book project *Putting Age in its Place: Age, Space, and Identity in North American Care Home Narratives* focuses on representations of long-term care institutions in Canadian and US American film and fiction. Ulla is chair of ENAS and executive board member of the International Association of Inter-American Studies. Together with Heike Hartung and Roberta Maierhofer, she is co-editor of the Aging Studies book series. In 2016, she received the University of Graz Excellence Award for Teaching.

Panel 16

Meaning Age

📅 Thursday, April 27 / ⌚ 16:00–17:30 / 🏠 SR B1

Chair: *Susanne Katharina Christ*

Participants: *Jason Danely, Katharina Maria Röse, Victoria Ridgway*

Jason Danely

Being Together: Carer Narratives in Japan and the UK

The narratives of family members caring for older adults reveal processes of self-transformation, vulnerability and resilience. This paper examines the ways carers in Japan and the UK compose narratives of family-provisioned eldercare. It describes how in each setting, care is shaped by cultural concepts of the self (carer) and other (cared-for) that reflect broader values and social orientations. While there are many strong similarities between family care in Japan and the UK, preliminary findings from autobiographical narratives gathered through interviews suggest culturally divergent models of empathy and personhood affect carer resilience. In Japan, vulnerability and openness to the cared-for were generally thought to make care difficult but ultimately more meaningful. In contrast, most UK respondents did not place the same value on vulnerability, casting it in a more negative light, as disruptive to carer stability. This paper explores the cultural meanings of 'being together' with and caring for others in these societies and their implications for carer support.

Katharina Maria Röse

Becoming Home in Nursing Homes for People with Dementia

Jason Danelly is Senior Lecturer of Anthropology at Oxford Brookes University. He is author of *Aging and Loss: Mourning and Maturity in Contemporary Japan* (2014 Rutgers University Press), and editor of *Transitions and Transformations: Cultural Perspectives on Aging and the Life Course* (Berghahn 2013). He is also President of the Association of Anthropology Gerontology and the Life Course (AAGE). Jason is currently conducting cross-cultural research with the support of an award from the John Templeton Foundation on the lived experiences of family caregivers of older adults in Japan and the UK.



Objectives: Over the course of life, places are filled with meaning and become transformed into home. People with dementia often experience a doubling of losses: They lose their memories and cognitive capacities for independently doing, and with the relocation to a nursing home they lose their familiar home. Within this paper, following questions were pursued: In which way people with dementia gain familiarity, maintain a sense of self, and remake a sense of being at home in the nursing home?

Methods: Using the constructivist grounded theory methodology and ethnographic-participant observation of different situations for residents with middle- and late-stage dementia were studied in two German nursing homes. In an iterative research-process data were coded and continually compared. Ethical approval was obtained.

Findings: Four interacting themes emerged: 'Developing creative and modified ways of doing', 'reframing and transforming time, people, and places – creating imaginary and familiar situations', 'doing familiar occupation, having a task and feeling themselves useful', and 'being together and taking part in occupational situations'. Immediate, familiar and situationally understandable situations and gradually adapted familiar occupations within institutional care routines enable residents to maintain a sense of

Victoria Ridgway

Visual Representations of ageing: Use of Drawings to Explore Cultural Perceptions of Older People

self and to develop a feeling at home. Residents prefer occupation which facilitate being and belonging.

Conclusion: Becoming home in the nursing home for people with dementia is related with having familiar occupations, creating familiar understandable situations, and a feeling of belonging and usefulness. The findings demonstrate in which way residents are able to cope with their losses and discontinuities in their life.

Katharina Maria Röse M.Sc., Candidate Dr. rer. medic., is an occupational therapist and health scientist. She wrote her dissertation within the PhD Program “Multimorbidity in the old age”, Institute for Medical Sociology and Rehabilitation Science, Charité-Universitätsmedizin, Berlin, Germany. This finished PhD-project addresses the occupation of people with dementia in the context nursing home.

This paper presents a critical visual exploration of the perceptions of ageing of undergraduate nursing students at the University in the North of England, based on the findings of a three-year longitudinal study. The research employed a pragmatic standpoint where mixed methodology was adopted to explore perceptions and included the use of an attitude towards older people scale (KOP) (Kogan, 1961), visual methods (participants were asked to draw a person aged 75), a Thurstone scale, and photo elicitation. The visual research methods are explored here.

The use of drawings as a research method provided a narrative of the participants' perceptions of later life. There was an emphasis on the asceticism of age, and appearance dominated the imagery via the physical depiction of ageing and the ascetics of clothing and grooming. The influence of role models was seen to impact upon the production of the image via the depiction of grandparents and people they knew, and the drawings identified some older people being active. The visual findings established

that the undergraduate nurses in the study viewed older people from a socially constructed phenomenon and used signifiers (hairstyle, clothing, mobility aids) to depict old age.

Dr. **Victoria Ridgway** in a Senior University Teaching Fellow at the University of Chester, she qualified as a nurse in 1993 working in acute surgery, she developed an interest in ageing and working with and for older people, completing a Masters in Gerontology. She has worked in higher education for 14 years and her research interests including her PhD focus on perceptions and attitudes towards older people.



Panel 17

Temporality and Age

📅 Thursday, April 27 / ⌚ 16:00–17:30 / 🏠 SR C1

Chair: *Alekzsandra Rokvity*

Participants: *Adrienne Chang, Ricca Edmondson,
Daria Belostotckaia, Julia Zelikova*

Adrienne Chang

Encounters with Old Age, Ageism, and Origins of Suffering in Buddhism: From Biographical Narratives to Cultural Hermeneutics

Among the world's intellectual traditions and spiritual endeavors, perhaps none more clearly than Buddhism has explored the relation between old age and suffering. Buddhism is of particular interest from a gerontological perspective, as old age is central to the religion's founding narrative: Buddha's path towards enlightenment begins with an unforgettable first encounter with the sufferings of old age. Having grown up as a prince, protected by his father from the vagaries of the human condition and carefully shielded from the realities of old age and death, biographical narratives of the young Buddha depict a sheltered adolescence whereby old age becomes as a poignant representation of suffering and worst of all, a source of further inquiry and quest for understanding which would one day lead the young prince beyond the safe confines of the palace. Conversely, following the Buddha's enlightenment, expansion of teachings, and founding of the Buddhist religion, these representations of aging, dying, and death would become transformative sources of meditative practice and contemplative inquiry towards

greater contentment, wisdom, and personal liberation. Contributing to the “archaeology” of ageism, this paper adopts a critical outlook on narratives of the Buddha’s early life and characterizes a particular understanding of ageism within the context of this 2500-year old religious and cultural tradition. Additionally, this paper explores what avoidance of old age means within these ancient biographical narratives, and how it may be understood in our lives today.

Adrienne Chang is a doctoral student at Miami University, USA. Adrienne’s primary interests are in the areas of spirituality and aging. Current research includes investigations of moral development in older adults; healthy aging and meditation; and traditional Buddhist teachings as applied to understanding suffering and resiliency in later life. She holds an MA from Columbia University in New York City and a BA from George Washington University in Washington, DC.

Ricca Edmondson

Wisdom, Ageing and ‘the Light of Experience’

The Galway Wisdom Project seeks to complement dominant psychological approaches to the study of wisdom and ageing by combining ethnographic, philosophical and historical approaches to wisdom. On the one hand, it uses ethnographic observations of over thirty older individuals, with benefits attributable to their wisdom, made over nearly twenty years in Ireland, the UK, the US, Germany and Austria, to develop a heavily transactional approach to the study of one major type of wisdom. On the other, it uses philosophical techniques which rely on the work of Aristotle among others, in order to analyze processes of wise reasoning as such, and to develop an account of how they might be justified. It traces the application of these forms of reasoning in applied spheres such as medicine and art. In historical/political terms, the project seeks to trace the genealogy of this approach to wisdom from earliest times and to delineate its possible place in contemporary society – and its potential effects as far as older people are concerned. In the context of this work, this paper presents some contemporary evidence by displaying both expressed and implicit needs for conceptualizing wisdom more precisely, and uses ethnographic/philosophical approaches to illustrate how wisdom may be practiced by older people as they interact with others of younger generations. These cases cast light on what is meant by ‘the light of experience’, connecting it with theories of artistic impact.

Prof. **Ricca Edmondson**, D.Phil. is author of *Ageing, Insight and Wisdom: Meaning and Practice across the Lifecourse* (Policy Press, 2015) and many other works on ageing, meaning and wisdom. Editor-in-Chief of the official European Sociological Association journal, *The European Journal of Cultural and Political Sociology*, she has a particular interest in interdisciplinary approaches to ageing and wisdom. She is also a committee member of the European Network for Ageing Studies and the Research Network on Ageing of the European Sociological Association.

Daria Belostotckaia

Psychological Outcomes of Interaction between Older People and Children Participating in the Intergenerational Program

There is strong scientific evidence about positive psychological outcomes of intergenerational interaction between both the relatives, and between unrelated children and older people participating in the intergenerational programs. However, it is not clear whether this positive effect is a result of interaction itself, participation in a particular activity, or there is an intergenerational effect. Presumably, all these three components supplement each other, and if they do, what is the role of intergenerational effect in the positive psychological outcomes of such programs? This research project aims to answer this question, and in doing so, it can help to better understand, evaluate and design intergenerational programs. Using a sample of children, older people and a middle generation (N=300) participating in the intergenerational program “Summer of Age” in Bristol, this study tests the hypothesis that intergenerational interaction leads to a higher level of subjective well-being. Diversity of activities used in the “Summer of Age” program allows us to control the type of activity when testing the effect of intergenerational interaction.

Julia Zelikova

Love, Sex and Loneliness in Older Age in Contemporary Russia

Daria Belostotckaia is a PhD student at the University of Vienna (the department of developmental psychology). Currently she is a visiting fellow at the Oxford Institute of Population Ageing where she is processing her data.

The project “Love, Sex and Loneliness in Older Age in Contemporary Russia” is devoted to analyze the narratives of older people about individual experience of age and aging, about what it means to be older person in Russia. The main aim of the project is to reveal the cultural stereotypes associated with older people in Russia and to understand how it is possible to resist ageist cultural assumptions.

As feminist studies distinguish sex and gender in order to escape the binary opposition between male and female, this project tries to escape the opposition of young and old. The project’s hypothesis is that old age in Russian culture constructs as a contradiction of young age. Therefore, to older people all is prohibited that associates with young age. This primarily relates to love and sex relations. Russian society considers older people as asexual human beings, who do not need anything other than food and medicine. These stereotypes cause loneliness for older people.

The theoretical approach of the project is critical theory, which investigates the issues of power and control in contemporary society. The issues raised have focused primarily on the ideological and socially constructive features of age conceptualizations.

The empirical part of the project consists of 30 in-depth narrative interviews with people older than 65 years. These interviews are devoted to

issues of loneliness in old age, and to patterns of behavior which Russian society prescribes to older people. In addition to the analysis of interviews, the project involves the analysis of cultural narratives from Internet blogs and journalist's texts, devoted to age and aging in the contemporary Russia. Starting with the premise that age does not flow from the individual's anatomical body, the project, using cultural narratives, analyzes the way age identity constructs in the contemporary Russian society.

Julia Zelikova – Education: 2001 – PhD in sociology Higher School of Economic (Moscow). 1996 – MA in sociology European University at St. Petersburg. Degree vilified by University of Helsinki. 1990 – BA of applied mathematics. Current Positions: September 2016 – present time: Associated Professor Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (RANEPA), St. Petersburg Branch. Areas of Interests: General Sociology of Aging, Comparative Social Studies, Data Analysis, Visual Sociology, Quantitative and Qualitative Methods in Sociology. Specific: Gender Studies, Sociology of Body.

Panel 18

Aging and Space

📅 Thursday, April 27 / ⌚ 16:00–17:30 / 🏠 SR C2

Chair: Simon Edwards

Participants: Marlene Goldman, Amir Cohen-Shalev,
Andrea von Hülsen-Esch, Silke Martin, Lena Eckert

Marlene Goldman

From Page to Screen: Researching Alzheimer's Disease and Filming an Adaptation of Alice Munro's "In Sight of the Lake"

my talk will discuss how and why I completed a scholarly book on the history of Alzheimer's disease and dementia (*Forgotten: Age-Related Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease in Canada* – forthcoming McGill-Queen's Press, 2017) and subsequently became determined to make a film based on my research. During my presentation, I will show *excerpts from the film "Piano Lessons," an adaptation of Alice Munro's story "In Sight of the Lake." I will also discuss the intersections among research and activism among age studies scholars and the recent and related development of the Toronto Age Studies Collaborative (TASC) Research Group at the University of Toronto. (*Note: depending on the regulations associated with 'international' premieres of the film, I may be able to screen the film in its entirety. I am currently working with my Production Manager to determine the film festivals we will be attending and their regulations with respect to national and international premieres.)

Amir Cohen-Shalev

**“Preying on the fleeting
abundance”:
The ‘Business of the Present’
in *Twilight of a Life***

Dr. **Marlene Goldman** is a Professor in the Department of English at the University of Toronto. Her recent research focuses on critical age studies. She is the author of *Paths of Desire* (University of Toronto Press, 1997), *Rewriting Apocalypse* (McGill–Queen’s Press, 2005), *(Dis)Possession* (McGill–Queen’s Press 2011), and *Forgotten: Age-Related Dementia and Alzheimer’s in Canadian Literature* (forthcoming McGill–Queen’s Press 2017).

this presentation juxtaposes two documentary films made by Silvain Biegeleisen, both centering on his mother and his relationship with her. *The Last Postcard* (2009) was made when she was 87 upon the realization it would be a last chance at sorting out the difficulties surrounding their mother-child nexus. Seven years later Silvain returns to his mother, now 94, bedridden and occasionally confused. *Twilight of a Life* (2015) records some of their moments together. The chronology of these films parallels the mother’s aging, from late, perfectly lucid old age to imperfectly lucid, near-death, end of life perspective. Watching the two in sequence sharpens transformations usually overlooked in mainstream cinema. In terms of the narrative structure and thematic content, there is, between the two documentaries, a clear movement from the diachronic to the synchronic: as the physical space contracts, the subjective mental territory seems to expand, opening up modalities of experience, emotion and relatedness that were absent or latent seven years earlier. I offer a new reading of this narrative movement as reflecting, from a cultural gerontol-

Andrea von Hülsen-Esch

The Three Ages of Man and the Materialization of an Allegory

ogy perspective, important insights concerning the gap between apparent physical and cognitive deterioration in old age and the unique discourse of the “old-old” with its inherent ambivalence of dis- and re-engagement. Fully aware of her physical as well as mental constraints, this frail, nonagenarian woman commands full access of the immediacy of the present moment at her disposal and manages to transform it into a wholesomely valid way of being in the world as well as of leaving it.

Amir Cohen-Shalev received his Ph.D from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education in 1985, and has since taught in various academic institutions in Israel, in the fields of life span creativity, psychology of the arts and representations of aging in film. Published “Both Worlds at Once” in 2002, and “Visions of Aging – Images of the Elderly in Film” (2008). Currently the head of Behavioral Sciences Dept at Yezreel Valley College in Israel.

The subject of my paper is a three-sided triciput, located in the Bavarian National Museum (Munich), in the Fitzwilliam Museum (Cambridge) and in the Victoria & Albert Museum (London). It depicts three male heads of different ages, the backs and napes of which are turned towards each other, causing the three faces to look in different directions. It can be located in the Venetian territory and dated c. 1575; the function of this object is completely unknown. Such a triciput could have served as the crown of a baldachin, used for ceremonial processions and entrances. The paper contextualizes the triciput, and seeks to show that this depiction of the ages of man materializes the division of life into the active phases of active men and contemplates not only the qualities associated with this rhythm of life and the political status' men were assigned. The political role played by the ages-of-man models in the context of classical discourses of aging appears to have been adapted by the Humanist circles in Northern Italy (specifically Venice). Further on, the depiction of the three ages of man served as a reflection upon time. Maybe the object was a crown originating from the helmet decoration of the Venetian family Trevisan-Cappello, which through this depiction of the ages of man in a Humanist context laid claim to the attribute of wisdom.

Silke Martin & Lena Eckert

Desire, Age and Feminism

Andrea von Hülsen-Esch, born 1961 in Cologne, study of Art History, History, Philosophy in Frankfurt am Main and Göttingen, 1991 doctor of philosophy, 1991 to 2001 scientific referee at the Max-Planck-Institute of History in Göttingen, habilitation 2001 at the Humboldt-University Berlin, from 2001 until now professor of Art History at the Heinrich-Heine-University Düsseldorf, since 2014 Vice-President for International Relations of the HHU. Fields of investigation: Medieval iconology, materiality and production in art, representation of 'age' in art, stage design from 16th to 19th century, history of the art market.

Who is desired? Whom is desire for? What is one desired for? When is desire visible? How desire is made visible? Whose desire is represented? How is desired? These are not just important feminist and queer questions (e.g. Berlant 2012), but they are also important questions to address when one tackles age, ageing or even ageism (Arber et al. 2003; Coyle 2001). In our paper, we want to undertake an interdependent (rather than intersectional) analysis of age and desire in film. Categories such as gender, class, sexual orientation, ethnicity and race, are fused together in recent European Films that have desire in old age as their topic (and there is a growing number of them). In our analysis we look at the filmic strategies, which cope with, reify, produce and counter images of desire in the old age (yet not focused on representation as do Featherstone and Wernick 1995). From a feminist and queer perspective, these filmic strategies are highly interesting since they enable us to think, feel and engage with the film and its narrative. Yet, we consider these filmic strategies as performative (in the sense of gender as according to Butler 1990), which means that film can contain a utopic and subversive potential. In our paper, we therefore want to discuss the interdependence of doing age, doing gender and doing desire. We consider these processes relevant for an intergenerational feminist discourse that

is sometimes just as youth fixated as mainstream culture at least when it comes to desire and its agents (Calasanti et al. 2006). Queer theory can partly also be accused of being ageist, when it comes to theorizing desire. As scholars and students of film, we are especially interested in the potential of film to create something other than expected, something that leads us beyond representation of the known, something new that emerges with the specific aesthetics of film.

Lena Eckert, Dr. phil., assistant professor at Bauhaus University Weimar. Lena studied Gender Studies, Gender History and Modern German Literature at Humboldt University Berlin and Essex University. She received her PhD from Utrecht University in 2010. Current research interests: gender, age and film, sexuality, embodiment, education, atmosphere, aesthetics and anarchism. Recent Publications: *Intersexualization*. Routledge (forthcoming); *FilmBildung* with Silke Martin (eds.) Schüren, 2014. "Queerer Anarcho-Feminismus als Ethik von Beziehungen. Ein Versuch." In: aep informationen. 2014.

Silke Martin, Dr. phil., assistant professor at Friedrich Schiller University. Silke studied Media-Culture at the Bauhaus University and received her Doctoral Degree in 2009. Current research interests: gender, age and

film, film and aesthetics, sound studies. Publications (Selection): *Die Sichtbarkeit des Tons im Film-Akustische Modernisierungen des Films seit den 1920er Jahren*, Schüren, 2010; *Schöner Lehren – gegendert und gequeert with Lena Eckert* (eds.), Schüren, 2016; *Bilder des Begehrens – doing age/doing desire with Lena Eckert*, In: *Alte im Film und auf der Bühne*, Bielefeld, 2016.

Panel 19

Dementia across Cultures and Genres

📅 Friday, April 28 / ⌚ 9:00–10:30 / 🏠 SR KW 12

Chair: Elizabeth Barry

Participants: Sarah Falcus, Katsura Sako, Jennie Chapman,
Kate Averis, Raquel Medina

In recent years, we have witnessed a significant increase in the number and range of cultural representations of dementia (c.f. Schweda and Swinnen, 2015). This is a part of a growing visibility of age-related cognitive impairment in cultural and political life. As many critics have observed, this increasing visibility can have ambiguous impacts, as seen in the contemporary obsession with cognitive health in older age, or what Stephen Katz describes as 'neuroculture' (Katz, 2012). Similarly, warning of the dangers of 'neuroagism', Margaret Gullette argues that the diagnosis of dementia is often used as a totalising label that turns any sign and form of cognitive disorder into one pathological condition (2016). Concerned with the growing body of cultural representations of dementia, this panel analyses representations of various forms of cognitive impairment in older age in texts from France, the UK, America and Mexico. Including filmic and written texts, the panel covers both fiction and auto/biography. The panel will consider not only how forms of cognitive impairment are represented in these texts, but also how these conditions may occasion innovative textual strategies and demand differ-

ent ways of reading. This cross-cultural, cross-media and genre approach hopes to promote connections and comparisons, instigating discussion of dementia in culture across a range of texts and contexts, insisting upon the specificity, as well as the shared dimensions of narratives of ageing and illness in the construction of cultural heritage.

Analysing fictional texts from a UK and North American context, Falcus and Sako's paper explores the ways in which emphasis on generational connections and what might be termed familial, timeworks to interrogate the dominant linear narrative of dementia as loss and isolation. Recognising the importance of storytelling as a form of generational inheritance in the chosen texts, the paper also discusses the ethical issues around the rights and responsibilities of the storyteller.

Jennie Chapman turns to two American texts – Amy Tan's *The Bonesetter's Daughter* (2001) and Walter Mosley's *The Last Days of Ptolemy Grey* (2010) – as a response to what she identifies as the 'whiteness' of cultural representations of dementia. This paper examines the extent to which the

Sarah Falcus & Katsura Sako

Dementia and Generational Time in Contemporary Fiction in English

Chinese-American and African-American characters in these novels experience aging and dementia in culturally specific ways, asking how such texts might challenge and extend our understanding of age-related dementia.

Kate Averis considers Anni Ernaux's autobiographical text *Les Années* (2008). One of France's most prolific and commercially successful authors, Ernaux contemplates her own ageing in the autobiographical text, *Les Années* (2008). In this text dementia is a haunting presence, as Kate Averis argues that it 'looms large as a spectre that threatens the autobiographical author-narrator's mental integrity and enduring sense of self'. The panel turns to a cinematic text, with Medina's paper, which analyses Maria Novaro's *The Good Herbs* (2011) set in Mexico. Analysing the reciprocal care relationship between the mother with Alzheimer's and the daughter in the film, it argues that the experience of Alzheimer's Disease enables the mother and daughter relationship that is characterised by 'plurality, unfixed and in process quality', a relationship that resonates with the feminist project to re-imagine female relationship beyond the patriarchal order.

the time of generations and families features strongly in many of the recent literary narratives of dementia. Though this time is at one level linear, as generations succeed each other, it is also both palimpsestic and transcendent, as one generation is in dialogue with those that have come before and those that will come after.

Generational and familial time therefore collapses linear time in fundamental ways. Examining examples from British and North American contexts, including Melvyn Bragg's *Grace and Mary* (2013) and Stefan Merrill Block's *The Story of Forgetting* (2008), this paper explores the ways that fictional dementia narratives exploit this generational and familial time in order to tell stories of lives which come to be lived outside of the linear. Significant here is the act of story telling in these narratives, which is often undertaken by a younger member of the family. Whilst complicating the generational model and interrogating the structure and boundaries of the family itself, storytelling enacts familial inheritance, bearing witness to a previous generation as a way of giving back a self and a story 'lost' to dementia. These narratives extend the experience of dementia from the personal through the familial into the wider cultural sphere, promoting our contemporary concern with dementia as a shared time of cultural prognosis (Jain 2007). At the same time, they raise ethical issues around the role and rights of the

storyteller. This paper explores the ethics of this storytelling and the acts of everyday imagination (Andrews 2014) inscribed in the often complex narrative forms of these texts.

Sarah Falcus is Senior Lecturer in English at the University of Huddersfield, UK. She has published in the field of contemporary women's writing, on authors such as Michèle Roberts, Pat Barker and Maggie Gee. **Katsura Sako** is an Associate Professor of English at Keio University, Japan. She has published in the field of postwar and contemporary British fiction, on authors such as A. S. Byatt and Margaret Drabble. With shared interests in ageing, gender and dementia in contemporary literature and culture, Sarah and Katsura have published co-authored work in literary and cultural gerontology, and are currently working on a book-length study of narratives of dementia. Sarah has recently initiated, with Jennie Chapman, a research network for those interested in dementia.

Jennie Chapman

Interrogating the 'White Life Course': Representing Minority Ethnic Experiences of Dementia in Contemporary American Fiction

According to Gilleard and Higgs, age studies have been slow to interrogate the ways in which an attention to race and ethnicity might "extend or reframe our understanding of ageing and later life."² Their claim finds evidence in the extraordinary profusion of contemporary fiction that examines age-related dementia which, taken as a corpus, insinuates that people living with dementia are overwhelmingly white (as well as middle-class and female) – a representation at striking variance with a recent study finding the incidence of dementia in the US to be highest among African-Americans, followed by American Indians, Latina/os, and Pacific Islanders.³

In keeping with the aims of the proposed symposium to present comparative perspectives on cultural narratives of age-related dementia, this paper will present an analysis of two novels that portray minority ethnic

2 Chris Gilleard and Paul Higgs (2014). *Ageing, Corporeality and Embodiment*. New York and London: Anthem. 52.

3 E. R. Mayeda, M. M. Glymour, C. P. Quesenberry and R.A. Whitmer (2016). Inequalities in dementia incidence between six racial and ethnic groups over 14 years. *Alzheimer's & Dementia*. 12(3): 216 –224.

Kate Averis

The Spectre of Dementia in Annie Ernaux's *Les Années* (2008)

characters living with dementia: Amy Tan's *The Bonesetter's Daughter* (2001) and Walter Mosley's *The Last Days of Ptolemy Grey* (2010). It will examine the extent to which its Chinese-American and African-American characters experience aging and dementia in culturally specific ways, and consider how such novels might "extend or reframe" readers' understanding of age-related dementia in a publishing culture, which continues to both privilege and universalize the experiences of white characters.

Dr. **Jennie Chapman** is a Lecturer in American Literature at the University of Hull, UK. She received her PhD from the University of Manchester, UK, in 2010. She began working in literary gerontology, with a particular focus on fictional narratives of dementia, in 2015. She is currently writing articles on the representation of dementia in Ian McEwan's *Saturday* and the 'medical encounter' in recent novels about dementia, and developing a monograph on contemporary American dementia novels.

Literary texts that focus on dementia, more frequently adopt the perspective of the carer, than that of the point of view of a person with dementia, for reasons that may range from the ethical to the narratological. Yet dementia may also be present as a thematic concern in texts in the absence of characters with dementia, as is the case in Annie Ernaux's *Les Années* [The Years] (2008). One of France's most prolific and commercially successful authors, Annie Ernaux is also one of the relatively few contemporary French writers to have broached the subject of women's ageing through a focus, initially on her mother's, and now her own ageing, in several texts. Having traced her mother's final years in two publications, *Une femme* [A Woman's Story] (1988) and *Je ne suis pas sortie de ma nuit* [I Remain in Darkness] (1997), she turns to contemplate her own ageing in *Les Années* where dementia looms large as a spectre that threatens the autobiographical author-narrator's mental integrity and enduring sense of self.

This paper examines how the threat of dementia that lingers on the author-narrator's mental horizon imposes a number of narrative strategies and processes of representation on the text, bringing about a stylistic turn in the author's corpus and, additionally, occasioning new reading strate-

gies. With a focus on *Les Années* and with reference to her two earlier texts, I examine how, in contrast to Ernaux's two earlier publications which seek to provide cohesion and assemble meaning from the narrative point of view of the carer, *Les Années* sees a breakdown in narrative progression and closure, as the author attempts to ward off the loss of identity and sense of self that she associates with dementia.

Kate Averis is Lecturer in French Studies at the University of London Institute in Paris. She is the author of *Exile and Nomadism in French and Hispanic Women's Writing* (Legenda, 2014), and the co-editor of *Exiles, Travelers and Vagabonds: Rethinking Mobility in Francophone Women's Writing* (University of Wales, Press, 2016). Her research lies in the field of twentieth and twenty-first-century Francophone and Latin American literature, and more particularly, in women's writing, transnational identities and cultures, trans lingual writing, literatures of migration and exile, gender studies, and feminisms. Her current research project examines women's ageing in contemporary women's writing, in the works of a range of Francophone and Latin American authors.

Raquel Medina

Gender and the Power of Herbs: Alzheimer's Disease as a Feminist Metaphor in *The Good Herbs* (2011) by Maria Novaro

Iathleen Woodward points out that “along with race, age and gender are the most salient markers of social difference” (1999: xi). It should be added that within the marker of age, another marker comes into play due to the so-called “longevity revolution” (Butler 2008), that of dementia. Considered one of the most engaged feminist filmmakers in Latin America, María Novaro's films are inhabited by women as mothers, daughters, grandmothers, sisters, and friends. In *The Good Herbs* (2011), Novaro explores the relationship between mother-daughter from the perspective of reciprocal care and love, and narrates the story of Lala, a highly instructed woman expert in the medicinal properties of the native Mexican plants, who is diagnosed with early onset of AD. Lala is divorced and has a daughter, Dalia, who is a mother herself. While women take center stage, men are either absent or displaced to the background. This paper explores the journey through AD that mother and daughter undertake as a metaphorical passage through which to explore the mother-daughter relationship from

a feminist perspective. Marianne Hirsch's seminal essay "Mothers and Daughters" called for "the need to transform more radically the paradigms within which we [feminists] think, to invent new theoretical frameworks that allow us, in our study of relationships between women, truly to go beyond patriarchal myths and perceptions." (1981; 221) Hirsch locates it in "the pre-oedipal mother-daughter relationship" that is for both traditions "continuous, plural, in process" (1981; 211). Moreover, Hirsch claims Rich's "lesbian continuum", as a possible space from and to which women can identify them even if they are not lesbians (222). It is precisely this plurality, unfixed and in process quality, in addition to be a "female only" space, what is found in the mother-daughter relationship of Lala and Dalia in *The Good Herbs*.

Raquel Medina – After working as Assistant Professor (1994 –2000) and then Associate Professor of Spanish (2000–2006) at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, I joined Aston University as Head of Spanish in 2006. I am the author of *Surrealismo en la poesía española de posguerra* (Visor, 1997), and co-editor of *Sexualidad y escritura* (Anthropos, 2002). I have published extensively on contemporary Spanish poetry, women writers and cultural studies. My current research focuses on questions of gender, ageing, and dementia in film, fiction and non-fiction narrative, and poetry. I am working on a monograph entitled *Cross-cultural Representations of Alzheimer's Disease* (Palgrave 2017), and I am co-founder of the research project 'CinemAGender', and member of other international research projects such as 'Genealogías'.

Panel 20

What's Up in Feminist Gerontology? Part 2: Empirical Studies of Gender, Sexuality, Embodiment and Ageing

📅 Friday, April 28 / ⌚ 9:00–10:30 / 🏠 SR KW 21

Chairs: Linn Sandberg & Barbara L. Marshall

Participants: Ieva Stončikaitė, Dora Tadić, Cynthia Port

By bringing together current scholarship on the intersections of gender, sexuality, age and ageing, this symposium is the second of two conjoined symposia that aim to explore the state of affairs of recent feminist gerontology. This symposium includes 4 papers that present that which suggests how empirical studies – from both the social science and the humanities – may inform future theorizing in feminist gerontology.

Ieva Stončikaitė's paper "Exploring Sexuality in Ageing Studies: Online or Offline Sexual Experiences?" also taps into the theme of changing narratives over time, challenging in particular the decline narrative of ageing women's sexuality. Stončikaitė's study focuses on the work of influential Second Wave Women's Liberation Movement's author Erica Jong (*Fear of Flying*). In her novel *Fear of Dying* Jong extends her explorations of female sexuality into later life, with the online dating websites as context.

For Stončikaitė, Jong's work opens some key questions for acknowledging ageing women's sexual subjectivity and the creativity and assertiveness of female ageing sexuality.

The panel then turns to thinking about aging futures with particular reference to gender and sexuality. In Dora Tadić's paper "I think in many respects we're just like another couple who are heterosexual" – Imagined Futures of Same-sex Couples", questions of the future are addressed through interviews with older same-sex couples on their visions of their own future. Tadić's work explores how futures are imagined but also what challenges same-sex people picture in their aging futures and how heteronormativity shapes their experiences.

The possibility of imagining futures of aging also emerges as a theme in the panel's fourth paper, Cynthia Port's "Tales for the Time Being: Entanglement, Embodiment, and Narrative". Port discusses how literary forms may propose new ways of thinking the life course. Drawing on Ruth Ozeki's 2013 novel *A Tale for the Time Being*, Port turns to feminist and queer ma-

Ieva Stončikaitė

Exploring Sexuality in Ageing Studies: Online or Offline Sexual Experiences?

terialist theorists such as Karen Barad, Elisabeth Grosz and Sara Ahmed to discuss ways of reimagining human aging and reframe questions of identity and corporeality. These narratives provide rich opportunities to reimagine human aging and engage questions about identity and temporality.

The papers for panel are in different ways in dialogue on matters of aging, and gendered and sexual embodiment and identity. All papers invoke aspects of temporality, either through changes over time as in the case of Thorpe and Stončikaitė, or by discussing envisioned futures of aging as in the case of Tadić and Port. Together, the papers bring out concepts and discussions springing from empirical studies that could inform future theorizing in feminist gerontology.

the objective of the proposed paper is to examine intersections of online dating, sexuality, age and ageing as reflected in the latest fictional novel *Fear of Dying* (2015) by Erica Jong, whose work substantially contributes to cultural gerontology, current feminist ageing, and life-course studies. Jong is one of the key figures of the Second Wave Women's Liberation Movement, and an outstanding figure in contemporary American literature, who is best known for her 1973 novel *Fear of Flying*, in which she openly explored female sexuality and erotic wit. Passed her midlife, she continues to write openly about female sexuality, and challenges the decline narrative that associates older women with sexual inactivity. In *Fear of Dying*, Jong explores the use of dating websites and shows that these online sites can be seen as innovative and exiting areas to explore one's sexuality (Sandberg, 2013). Through her fictional character she reveals that ageing women do not lose interest in sex and romance, but, on the contrary, emerge as assertive, creative, and agentic individuals, thus producing complex meanings of the process of growing old. How-

Dora Tadić

“I think in many respects we’re just like another couple who are heterosexual” – Imagined Futures of Same-sex Couples

ever, even though Jong’s heroine craves for sexual adventures and novelty through online dating, she learns that extra-marital sex cannot guarantee stability and self-fulfillment. Jong reminds her readers that although sex is a necessary element in life, what really matters are intimacy, companionship, and mutual understanding between partners: “my experiment with ziplessness had lost its savor. I wanted the growing closeness with my husband more than I wanted strangers. Astonishing” (2015: 217).

Ieva Stončikaitė – I am a PhD candidate currently working on my thesis on Erica Jong, in which I explore how ageing affects female sexuality, gender relations, travelling and the literary creation of this contemporary American writer. I am a member of the research group Grup Dedal-Lit in collaboration with the SforAGE project and a member of the European Network in Ageing Studies (ENAS). I also co-teach as assistant lecturer at the Department of English and Linguistics at the University of Lleida, Spain.

This paper will present a doctoral research that explores the imagined futures of older same-sex couples in Scotland, basing its theoretical framework on Adam and Groves’ 2007 theory on imagined futures. This framework will be used to explore ageing in a non-heterosexual context, providing a deeper understanding of the intersection of gender, age and sexuality and enabling a more comprehensive reading of literature on older age. The research will also address discrimination aimed at sexual minorities, in particular older same-sex couples, who face homophobia and ageism in their daily lives. Following this, the main research questions are: (1) How do older same-sex couples imagine their future? (2) What challenges do they visualize when thinking about their future?, (3) How are their experiences framed by heteronormativity? In order to answer these questions, qualitative data collection methods will be used – two series of semi-structured interviews, the couples’ personal representations of imagined futures, and a series of questions the couples will answer between the interviews. The interviews will include both

partners, and the personal representations will be jointly produced. This will allow for a better understanding of the relationship, and for a chance to observe couple dynamics when discussing their future. The significance of this paper goes beyond the theoretical contributions it will make to the areas of ageing and sexuality studies. It also holds practical contributions that can be applied in policymaking concerning better treatment and accommodation for the older non-heterosexual population in Scotland.

Dora Tadić is a first year Sociology PhD student at the University of Edinburgh, with a research interest in older same-sex couples. She published a book review in the *International Journal of Ageing and Later Life*, and presented her work at the New Directions conference in 2016.

Cynthia Port

Tales for the Time Being: Entanglement, Embodiment, and Narrative

The novel as a literary form emerged alongside capitalism, with its investments in evolving notions of subjectivity and individual agency. Early novels offered coming-of-age narratives and the marriage plot; by the turn of the twentieth century, modernist experiments explored individual consciousness and temporal fluidity. As new materialist perspectives offer ways to reevaluate identity, agency, and the place of the human, how might literary forms model the life course in new ways? Novelists like Ali Smith and Ruth Ozeki draw on queer feminist materialisms, telling stories that resituate the corporeality and consciousness of human characters in post human contexts that acknowledge entanglements of matter and meaning and call for a reorientation of value and ethics. These narratives provide rich opportunities to reimagine human aging and reframe questions about identity and temporality.

This paper, as a part of a larger project on embodied aging in contemporary narratives, focuses on Ruth Ozeki's 2013 novel *A Tale for the Time Being*, a novel that sets aside Western philosophical approaches to time, value, and meaning in favor of perspectives suggested by Zen Buddhism and quantum physics. Through intersecting narratives, the novel puts into conversation the experiences of three women of different ages and generations: a genderqueer sixteen-year-old girl (who has decided to commit

suicide); her approximately 104-year-old great-grandmother (who is a Zen Buddhist nun); and a middle-aged Canadian-American writer (who shares the author's name and at least some of her history). Drawing on feminist and queer materialist theories articulated by such thinkers as Karen Barad, Elizabeth Grosz, and Sara Ahmed, this analysis excavates Ozeki's heady novel, exploring what each of its three central figures suggests about being a "time being" in a dis/continuous universe that is always becoming.

Cynthia Port is Associate Professor of English at Coastal Carolina University and coeditor, with Aagje Swinnen, of *Age, Culture, Humanities: An Interdisciplinary Journal*. Her research centers on age, value, and temporality in modernist novels and in contemporary fiction and film, and she is completing a book entitled *Dangerous Ages: Modernist Women against a Culture of Youth*. Port serves on the North American Network in Aging Studies (NANAS) governing council and has held leadership positions in the Modern Language Association, the National Women's Studies Association, and the European Network in Aging Studies.

Panel 21

Stepping Out of Gerontology?

📅 Friday, April 28 / ⌚ 9:00–10:30 / 🏠 Conference Hall

Chair: *Iris Loffeier*

Participants: *Julia Twigg, Wendy Martin, Stephen Katz,
Cornelia Hummel, Ingrid Volery, Nathalie Burnay,
Iris Loffeier, Benoît Majerus, Thibault Moulaert*

This symposium is dedicated at discussing the forms, contents and labels to be given to social knowledges of ageing, and the consequences of such choices. Gerontology? While numerous publications have wondered if it should be considered an actual discipline (see, for example, Levine, 1981; Lowenstein, 2004), and related to ‘the need for theory’ (Biggs, Lowenstein and Hendricks, 2003), or perhaps be thought of as a profession instead (Hirschfield and Peterson, 1982), its diversity in methods and communities has been repeatedly put into question. Social gerontology? Critical gerontology? Cultural gerontology (Twigg, Martin, 2015)? In the social sciences, the structure of interdisciplinary sub-categories of aging is one of many sites of contested knowledge production. While Anglo-American social scientists have appropriated (and modified) the category of gerontology with the addition of qualifying prefixes, the Francophone social sciences (Moulaert, 2012) have almost completely rejected this label. How do such choices affect knowledge on aging and epistemic communities? Can we consider, as Troyanski states it, that

“[S]cholarly frameworks are globalized, and often the terms of the debate have their origins in the West’ (Troyanski, 2016, p. 124)”?

Raising such questions has the ambition to create new dynamic discussions, among which are the two questions that have been dividing the research community. First, if gerontology (would it be “cultural”, “critical”, “social”, etc.) has the ambition to understand the specificity of the social processes of ageing, what epistemological interest does the specialisation of knowledge support?

Second, are academic research and result oriented research exclusive? What choices can be made, whom is the research addressed to, and what divisions of labour can be drawn from there? To discuss such matters, we believe important to bring to the debate authors that have taken clear positions toward a structuring of the field. By exploring the construction of “ageing region”, and by offering a special attention to the borders of knowledge between disciplines, between social sciences, policymakers and stakeholders, this symposium intends to offer agenda for research on ageing.

Julia Twigg & Wendy Martin

Cultural Gerontology: Shifting the Paradigm?

The Cultural Turn came relatively late to gerontology, reflecting the tendency of the field to be dominated by practical issues and policy concerns. Over the last decade, however, cultural influences have increasingly impacted on the field, bringing new theorizing, and new subject matter to bear. This has expanded the scope of gerontology immeasurably with the result that it is no longer dominated by the perspectives of medicine and social welfare, but ranges more widely intellectually. Age increasingly features as an analytic category across the social sciences; and this growth of interest is reflected in the arts and humanities also. Cultural gerontology thus need to be conceived as a broad movement of ideas that reflects both changes in the socio-cultural position of older people, and changes in the theoretical and academic analysis of these. What it brings to the table is a wider and more generous approach to the phenomenon and experience of later years, and a more broadly based and more sophisticated theoretical and methodological approach to its analysis. In doing so it raises questions for how we should locate gerontology academically and politically.

Julia Twigg is a Professor of Social Policy and Sociology at the University of Kent, UK. She has been actively engaged in debates around cultural gerontology, and is co-editor with Wendy Martin of the *Routledge Handbook of Cultural Gerontology*, published in 2015. She has written widely on age and embodiment, recently focusing on the role of the dress in the cultural constitution of age. In 2013, she published *Fashion and Age: Dress the Body and Later Life* that examined the role of dress in the lives and experiences of older women. With Christina Buse, she undertook a study of Dementia and Dress, exploring issues of personhood, embodiment and memory. She is currently working on masculinity, dress and age. Dr. **Wendy Martin** is a Senior Lecturer in the College of Health and Life Sciences, Brunel University London, UK. Her research focuses on ageing, embodiment and daily life and the use of visual methods in ageing research. She was Principal Investigator for the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC, UK) on the research project Photographing Everyday Life: Ageing, Lived Experiences, Time and Space, and is Co-Investigator for the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) in the international partnership Ageing, Communication, Technologies (ACT): experiencing a digital world in later life. Wendy is Co-Convener of the British Sociological Association (BSA) Ageing, Body and Society study group and is Co-Editor of the *Routledge Handbook of Cultural Gerontology* that was published in 2015.

Stephen Katz

The Biopolitics of Age Crises and Knowledge-Making in the Public Sphere

Today bio-political governance has shifted increasingly towards neoliberal policies aimed at individualized risks and health crises. As such, the public is encouraged to join governmental agendas towards 'a will to health' around lifestyle, exercise, diet, sexuality, environment, child-rearing and aging in the hope of managing issues of life, health, security and risk that have become associated with various life-course transitions. To illustrate these trends, this paper examines examples of one or more modern life crises that have become associated with aging: adolescence (puberty, youth, risk) mid-life (middle age despair), and aging (population threat and dementia dread). In particular, the presentation looks at the selected popular texts and literature that have become authorities on the aging process by bridging the sciences, the professions and the public sphere.

Stephen Katz is Professor of Sociology, Trent University, Peterborough (Canada), co-applicant for the Canadian SSHRC funded Ageing, Communication and Technologies program (ACT), recipient of Trent Distinguished Research Award, and author of *Disciplining Old Age* (1996), *Cultural Aging* (2005) and publications on ageing bodies, critical gerontology, biopolitics, and cognitive culture. Current projects include two new books, *Ageing and Everyday Life: Materializations and Embodiments*, and *Essays on Mind, Body and Self in Later Life*, and research on technologies of 'quantified ageing' with Barbara Marshall.

Cornelia Hummel, Ingrid Volery, Nathalie Burnay

The Kaleidoscope of the Sociology of Aging through the Francophone Field

How does Francophone sociology deal with aging? Such is the question raised by this contribution, which explores articles published within the last fifteen last years in various Francophone scientific journals. Through a systematic review of the scientific literature, we analyze the evolution of the topics in the sociology of aging through five famous journals of sociology in the Francophone field. Three of them come from generalist journals (*Revue française de sociologie*, *Revue suisse de sociologie*, *Recherches sociologiques et anthropologiques*) from three French countries (France, Switzerland and Belgium). The last two journals are specifically devoted to the study of aging (*Gérontologie et société*, *Retraite et société*).

The results invite further exploration of the weight of the national frameworks in which Francophone European sociologies are structured. To summarize the history of this decidedly recent field is to confront the interlacing of times (that of the times, the institutions and the people) and necessitate the grasp of a complex game of conceptual, material, and symbolic transmissions which operate, refuse, and displace, while showing the extent to which present-day scientific publication inherits the great institutional and personal stories of the past.

Cornelia Hummel is Senior scientist (MER) at University of Geneva, Switzerland. **Ingrid Volery** is Associate professor at University of Lorraine, France. **Nathalie Burnay** is professor at University of Namur and at Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium.

Iris Loffeier, Benoît Majerus, Thibault Moulaert

Stepping Out of Aging Studies? A Proposition of Dialog



ur guiding hypothesis is that ageing studies, as a region of knowledge, should first be thought of as a subject for analysis before being taken as an object to be defined. This makes it possible to focus on the forms, contents, structures, and uses of knowledge, creating the potential for new knowledge on ageing that might not require new subdivisions of knowledge, further facilitated by at least temporarily stepping out of such a region of knowledge.

This is not, however, to deny the value of ageing-studies knowledge: the specificities of ageing must be studied and the relationship between action and knowledge taken into account. Our initiative is simply different in some respects, and hopefully complementary to ageing studies. In the book we edited (Loffeier, Majerus, Moulaert, 2017), we gambled on the heuristics of researchers from different disciplines and topics joining forces. We believe ageing studies benefits from the standard tools of anthropology, history, sociology, and philosophy, not to mention their divisions of labour and the dialogue between them. Additionally, in contrast with 'critical –', 'social –', or 'cultural'-gerontology, providing an arena for dialogue for researchers who are not exclusively specialised in ageing, opens the way for a novel grasp of its specificities while making a serious effort to answer the call for 'undisciplining old age' (Katz, 1996).

We want to emphasize the fact that specializing research exclusively on ageing runs the risk of making ageing appear distinctive as a result of the division of labour in the field of knowledge production, rather than due to its actual specificities. Epistemologically, a specialized region of knowledge presupposes the phenomenon's specificities and takes them for granted. Methodologically, social studies of ageing are in most cases based on empirical enquiry conducted exclusively with older people, although comparative methods and tools are necessary to provide the basis for demonstrating specificities. Such choices limit the phenomenon to a pre-defined segment of the population, confirming epistemological specificities with methodologically induced ones.

Iris Loffeier is a permanent research fellow in sociology at HESAV (Haute École de Santé Vaud), in Lausanne, Switzerland. **Benoît Majerus** is Associate Professor for European History at the University of Luxembourg. **Thibault Moulaert** is Associate Professor at the Université de Grenoble-Alpes, France. They edited together "Framing Age: Contested Knowledge in Science and Politics" (Routledge, 2017), a volume that questions boundaries of knowledge and discourses in aging.

Panel 22

Philosophy

📅 Friday, April 28 / ⌚ 9:00–10:30 / 🏠 SR B1

Chair: *Hamed Tayebi*

Participants: *Lucie Vidovičová, Anne Muench*

Lucie Vidovičová

Modes of Incorporation in Study of Norms on Ageing

We argue that recent social change is interwoven with the growing efforts of older people, both as individuals and as groups, to develop strategies which would remove their minority status and problematize their marginal position in power structures within societies. We apply J.C. Alexander's "modes of incorporation" – hyphenation, assimilation and multiculturalism – in order to describe the ways members of a "submissive" age group try more or less actively, actually or symbolically, to reduce the gap between their stigmatization and utopian assumptions regarding equality, solidarity and respect in public life. In terms of age, the definition of hyphenation characterizes the notion of active ageing, and assimilation in many ways resembles anti-ageing pursuits. On the other hand, within multiculturalist approaches, the diversity and uniqueness of age become a source of identification across groups. Marginal characteristics are viewed as valuable per se, as a variation on the theme of citizenship. So, while both assimilation and hyphenation turn what is unique into what is universal (age), multi-age-culturalism converts what is universal into what is unique (cf. slogan "Grey is beautiful" etc.).

In our survey of a representative sample of the 50 –70 age group in the Czech Republic, we tested the preferences towards hyphenation (active ageing), assimilation (anti-ageing), and multiculturalism (age-acceptance)

in order to show whether there is a general tendency towards one of these approaches. Hyphenation, operationalized as “Old age is part of life, but should be similar to middle age, active, and full of life” has become most prevalent, followed by multi-age-culturalism, assimilation being labelled relatively less as an ideal. However, there are inter-group variances and socio-political contexts which will be discussed.

Lucie Vidovičová, PhD. is a sociologist. Her long-term research interests include sociology of age and ageing, age discrimination, active ageing and social exclusion. Lucie also cooperates with different governmental and NGO bodies in the field of senior advocacy. She is part of the UNECE Task Force for Ageing-related statistics, EAST Network of Oxford Institute of Population Ageing and serves at executive committee of RC 11 Sociology of Aging at International Sociological Association. Since 2016 she also serves as a co-leader of WG on spatial exclusion within the ROSEnet COST Action. Recent projects she has been involved in include surveys of labour market conditions of older workers and its impact on retirement decisions and surveys on older consumers, age discrimination, ageing in big cities and rural areas, and the issue of role overload in active ageing grandparents. She works in Brno (CZ) & in Maribor (SI).

Anne Muench

The Dog That Didn't Bark: The Challenge of Cross-Cultural Qualitative Research on Ageing

The paper addresses the problem of cultural proximity and presents methodological findings from the process of systematic “estrangement” in qualitative cross-cultural research on aging. Making use of the experiences within the “Ageing as Future” project, where an interdisciplinary group of researchers from Hong Kong, Germany and the US analyzed problem-centered interviews from the three countries, we discuss the question of how shared identities and taken-for-granted assumptions may bias qualitative research. As a methodological framework for our empirical investigations, we followed the phenomenological theory of Alfred Schütz and his concept of the “lifeworld”, which can be understood as a social construction of an intersubjective reality with a shared stock of knowledge that is based on common experiences that social actors are taking for granted. Working in an international and thus culturally diverse group of researchers, each of the national teams had differing systems of relevance. This became clear and challenging when each team started to analyze the foreign interviews and constantly questioned narratives that the interviewers at the other research sites were taking for granted. Thus, by way of looking at the “Other” and by organizing a setting allowing for the reciprocity of perspectives, all three research groups gained more sensitivity for their “own” data. The paper thus holds that an interactive setting for

cross-cultural research may be a precondition for detecting and possibly overcoming (or at least mitigating) the problem of cultural bias.

Anne Muench is working at the Department of Sociology at the Friedrich-Schiller-University Jena, Germany. She is PhD-student and research assistant in the project “Ageing as Future”. Her fields of research include ageing studies, sociology of time, sociology of care (work) and qualitative research methods.

Co-author of the paper is **Stephan Lessenich**: Stephan Lessenich is Professor for Sociology at the Ludwig-Maximilians-University (LMU) at Munich, Germany. His fields of research include, beyond ageing studies, the comparative macrosociology of democratic capitalism and the political sociology of global social inequality. His latest publication in English is “Claus Offe and the critical theory of the capitalist state” (with Jens Borchert, Routledge 2016).

Panel 23

Cultural Representations of Age and Aging in Advice and Self-help Literature

📅 Friday, April 28 / ⌚ 9:00–10:30 / 🏠 SR C1

Chairs: Claudia Stöckl

Participants: Claudia Stöckl, Anna-Christina Kainradl, Ingrid Enge, Karin Kicker-Frisinghelli

Considering the increasing publication and sales rates, one can assume that advice and self-help literature on age and aging is increasingly in demand. These books form a literary genre in which specific knowledge is popularly processed, transformed, and spread. During the recent years the effects of educational guidebooks were rudimentarily examined, but qualitative studies on self-help literature on age and aging are not available so far. Advice books offer knowledge about age and aging – presented in form of (easily) applicable formula, standards and ideals. Moreover, they implicitly transport images

of the humane and other current social and historical conditions. They start out from non-transparent norms and ideals and make use of certain patterns of argumentation. Thus, they uphold stories about age and aging. Simultaneously they pass on and scale pictures and frames of thinking about the aged, and contribute to their manifestation. The papers of the symposium discuss in an exploratory approach how authors precede arguments, and how they construct and spread images on age and aging with regard to the aspects analyzed in the presentations.

Claudia Stöckl

The Kind of Knowledge Spread and the Addressed/Supported readership

The main interest of this paper is the kind of knowledge and the disciplinary origins of the knowledge, which is processed, spread and transformed in self-help and advice literature on age and aging and the question, whose personal concerns are addressed and supported. Who is the advice-seeking readership and whose concerns are in the foreground: aging people themselves, people in charge of aged persons, societal interests, economic considerations etc.?

Mag. Dr. **Claudia Stöckl** studied education and philosophy. She is a research assistant at the Department of Educational Sciences at Graz University. Her main fields of research and teaching are theory of education, educational gerontology/geragogy, gender, ethics/aesthetics and history of education. Currently she leads a research project on the Sense and Importance of Not-Knowing for Aging People in a Knowledge Society (Die Bedeutung von Nicht-Wissen für ältere Menschen in der Wissensgesellschaft).

Anna-Christina Kainradl

The Representation of Personal Autonomy and Social Integration

The paper deals with the issue of autonomous subjects in self-help literature and the question of the relations between the socially or institutionally interrelated persons. How is autonomy presented and evaluated in relation to social integration (socially embedded and facilitated autonomy vs. independency). Can we find advice concerning support and assistance in leading a personally autonomous life?

Mag. **Anna-Christina Kainradl** MA studied philosophy, French and theology and is a lecturer of Medical Ethics at the Graz Medical University. Currently she is a project member at the Department for Moral Theology at Graz University and is working on the configuration of autonomy in Medical Ethics, especially in vulnerable periods of life such as aging.

Ingrid Enge

The Representation of the Humane and Normative Implications

Representations of age and ageing inevitably touch questions of the humane. Especially in the case of 'dementia', normative implications concerning the humane can be studied. These implications affect both individuals directly involved, or affected, as well as society as a whole. The paper discusses which idea of the humane is represented in advice and self-help literature on age, aging and dementia. Which are the differences if dementia is described as an incurable illness, or as a phenomenon difficult to understand or fully explain? Which different representations of the humane and of normative implications do we see from various perspectives, e.g. from inside or outside? What are the crucial implications about humane and normative issues, offered in advice books from various perspectives?

Mag. **Ingrid Enge** took up her study of philosophy in 2005 as a senior student after retirement. Currently she is working on a doctoral thesis at the Department of Philosophy at Graz University. Her dissertation deals with the relations between autonomy and dependency in the context of the present discourse on age and ageing, including dementia.

Karin Kicker-Frasinghelli

The Representation and Evaluation of Disability and Age

When we speak about disability, and at the same time focus on age and ageing, we have to differ between age-related disabilities (impairment) and those with which people already live a lifetime. The presentation will consider both mentioned phenomena of disability and will examine underlying paradigms, images of age/ageing and disability and the asserted claims on a quality-full life in old age on the basis of (advice and self-help) literature.

Mag. **Karin Kicker-Frasinghelli** is a pedagogue for the disabled and holds a Masters degree in educational sciences. She is a research assistant and a PhD student at the Department of Educational Sciences at Graz University, and also works as a project manager for Lebenshilfen Soziale Dienste GmbH (Lebenshilfen Social Services GmbH). Her research interests lie in the theory of education in the fields of corporeality, age, disability and pragmatic pedagogics.

Session E

Panel 24

Selling Age

📅 Friday, April 28 / ⌚ 13:30–15:00 / 🏠 Conference Hall

Chair: Oana Ursulesku

Participants: Chris Gilleard, Elinor Fuchs, Karin Lövgren,
Magnus Nilsson

Chris Gilleard

Imaginarities of Old Age vs. Ideologies of Ageism

this paper contrasts two ways of approaching the negative evaluation of old age. The first focuses upon the idea of old age as part of the social imaginary of the life course – and the second upon the idea of an ageist ideology. While the former draws upon the writings of Cornelius Castoriadis and his concept of the radical imaginary investing social institutions and relations with a surplus of significations beyond either the real or the symbolic order, the latter draws upon a Marxist tradition whereby beliefs about humanity and society are treated as if they constituted natural and real phenomena while masking the interests of particular groups or classes. The strengths and weaknesses of both positions are evaluated.

Chris Gilleard is a visiting research fellow in the Division of Psychiatry, University College London. His work with his fellow author, Paul Higgs, is concerned with theorising changes and continuities in the articulation, experience and social realisation of later life in contemporary society.

Elinor Fuchs

From the Sublime of Age to Juvenescence: Aging According to Pfizer

images of old age once inspired disgust and terror. In his magisterial study *Disgust*, Winfried Menninghaus makes it clear that the aged body, especially the female body, with its “folds and wrinkles, warts...drooping breasts...and a proximity to both death and putrefaction,” inspires a kind of horror. (84). If the appearance of old age once partook of the negative sublime, it has come in recent years to be regarded as the mere consequence of personal neglect: wrinkles can be deleted. The fear of old age is shedding what T.S. Eliot would call its “objective correlative.”

Enter the pharmaceutical giant Pfizer, the original marketer and patent holder of Lipitor, the single recent drug most widely associated with longevity – and its three-year campaign lasting from 2013 to 2015, and purportedly designed to end the fear of aging itself. To vanquish this fear, the campaign’s organizers urged not mature acceptance of aging but the merry oblivion of youth culture. The campaign echoed the Twitter hashtags “#FOMO (Fear of Missing Out) and #YOLO (You Only Live Once), with #FOGO (Fear of Getting Old). It echoed the cheerful slogan of the recent Dairy Industry campaign, “Got Milk?” with “Get Old!” It published daffy cartoons on window-sized posters depicting youthful figures, “aged” in white wigs, with

humorous thought bubbles about the difficulty of climbing the stairs and the relief of going to bed early.

Why harness youth culture to “sell” aging? What does it mean when aging becomes a product? One conclusion of this paper is that while the traditional imagery of aging, with its strong performative power, may be disappearing from cultural memory in what Stanford scholar Robert Pogue Harrison calls our “age of juvenescence,” the fear of aging, as age critic Margaret Morganroth Gullette writes, is reaching down to the middle years and below. The Pfizer campaign may be read as a barometer of American age confusion, wherein aging may be ever less seen, even as it is more widely feared. See attached and below two images, the first from the Pfizer “Get Old” Campaign, and the second, a classic image of the old Russian witch, Baba Yaga. These are two of the contrasting images this paper will bring into play, some illustrating the Sublime of Age, the others from the Pfizer “Get Old” advertising campaign.

Karin Lövgren

Old Age in Advertisements for Garments

Elinor Fuchs is a critic and scholar of drama and performance recently retired from a professorship at the Yale School of Drama, a graduate conservatory of theater arts at Yale University. The author or editor of five books and numerous critical and scholarly articles, Prof. Fuchs has been writing about issues of dementia and aging since publishing an Alzheimer's memoir, *Making an Exit*, about her mother's illness and her role as a caretaker. In 2005. In 2015, her essay, "EstrAGement: Towards an Age Theory Theatre Criticism," was named "Outstanding Article of the Year" by the Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE). Her essay "Rehearsing Age" will be published in the September issue of *Modern Drama*.

This paper explores how old age is represented in advertisements. Two cases are analyzed. The cases are Gudrun Sjödén's catalogues and an advertising campaign by a chain store: Åhléns. The first case deals with the designer Gudrun Sjödén's company and their catalogue, distributed by mail, before each new season. Sjödén is one of Sweden's largest exporters of fashion. In Sweden the company has come to be associated with older women, whereas it in other countries is rather seen as ecological and colorful fashion, with stores in hip locations in e. g. London, New York, or Berlin. In Sweden, the catalogue is regarded as a mediated example where also older women are represented. This paper explores how this is done, using the perspective of the producers of the catalogue, an analysis of the visual material, as well as interviews with women in the targeted age category, who have given their perspective on the imagery.

The second case explores an advertising campaign by a Swedish chain of department stores, Åhléns. On billboards, in print and on-line they declared that clothes have no age limit. The company claimed authority through cooperation with a fashion scholar. Although the company stated their intent was to dissolve age limits, paradoxically, they presented clearly stated such: for instance crop tops, age limit 26, ripped jeans, 33, colorful

Magnus Nilsson

A Celebration to Those that Built Society

sneakers, 43. The visual material depicted slender models, in youthful postures dressed in garments associated with youth, with only few visual clues connoting older age. The campaign, including the following discourse in the newspapers, is analyzed.

The two cases, collected and analyzed with methods from several disciplines, especially media studies, discuss representations of old age in a time of changing cultural conceptions of ageing.

Karin Lövgren is an associate professor at University of Gävle, Sweden. Her research deals with cultural meaning making on age and ageing, using an everyday perspective, with a special interest in how ageing is represented in different forms of popular culture. She has done extensive research on old women, dress and ageing, where she used wardrobe interviews as point of departure for analyses of constructions and experiences of ageing.



This gala is for you who've built this city and this society." With these words the host welcomes the crowd of about 500 older people to the event. The guests are provided with entertainment in the form of music and speeches, and among others, by the mayor. This is organized around questions of how society has changed during the life time of the guests, and of the specific marks those who now are old have made on society. The events take hold around the narrative of older people as the foundation on which society of today rests, and at the end of the gala, everyone stands up and sings the national anthem.

The event took place in early 2016 and was called the Seniors' gala. The gala is part of an emerging phenomenon in Sweden, where galas are organized for older people, as well as in their honor, to pay homage to older people for having built society, the welfare state of Sweden.

In this paper, the focus is on how cultural heritage is used both as a form of entertainment and articulated as signifying the identity of both older people, and Sweden as a society at these events. An emphasis is put on the way that time; space and experience are used together with notions of "society" and "nation" as signifiers of community over time, to interpolate older people, as well as the public through media coverage.

The paper is based on the participant observations, interviews, as well as on the reports on these events in the mass media.

Magnus Nilsson earned his PhD from the National Institute for the Study of Ageing and Later Life, Linköping University, Sweden. He currently holds a position as assistant professor in Social Work at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden. His research has engaged with different ageing related themes, for example ageing in rural areas, ageing and masculinity, representations of old age and ageing in public discourse and the process of marketization of elder care in Sweden.

Panel 25

Changes in Patterns: Literature I

📅 Friday, April 28 / ⌚ 13:30–15:00 / 🏠 SR B1

Chair: *Mirna Marić*

Participants: *Ivana Đurić Paunović, Kristina Stevanović,
Simon Edwards, James Everett, Anastasiya Shchebet,
Fergal McHugh*

Ivana Đurić Paunović & Kristina Stevanović

Awareness of the Illusion: Representations of Old Age in Short Stories in Serbian

Viewed from the perspective of the binary opposition system, the old age element in the old age/youth pair is typically perceived as negatively connoted, deviant, as the Other. However, in the patriarchal and more traditional societies of the Western Balkans in distant as well as in a more recent past, old people used to be highly respected members of the community. This cultural and sociological situation found its reflection in the literature of the time through representation of wise old men and women, advice-givers and keepers of the hearth. With the change of the economic and social paradigm, starting from the second half of the 20th century, a shift in the treatment of aging process and old age has occurred, altering the ways of their representation in fiction, and in literature in general. The aim of this paper is to show the gradual process of change in the patterns of representation of old age through the analyses of short stories by Ivo Andrić, Aleksandar Tišma and Ljiljana Đurđić, among others. Following the line from the traditional representations to the modern ones, the authors will pay particular attention to cultural analyses of old bodies (M. Foucault; M. Douglas), isolation both willing and imposed, destabilization and dissipation of identity (Featherstone and Hepsworth), and counterfeiting of (auto) biographies. The paper will also tackle the issue of responsibility of literature in the construction of the image of old age in contemporary society.

Ivana Đurić Paunović is an Associate Professor at the English Language and Literature Department at UNS where she teaches courses in contemporary American literature, literary and cultural theory, and literary translation. For her work as a translator, she has received the national award as well as several others. She is the author of books on E.A.Poe and Paul Auster, numerous articles and scholarly papers. Dr Đurić Paunović is the Editor of Serbian Prose in Translation series, in English language, created to promote the works of contemporary Serbian authors.

Kristina Stevanović, PhD., is a Research Assistant at the Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad. Her field of interest encompasses genre theory, gender theory and Serbian literature of the 20th century. She is the author of the highly acclaimed book called *Osvajanje modernog* (Conquering Modernism), a study of Serbian Modernism. Her doctoral thesis deals with construction of identity in the works of Rastko Petrovic, the most innovative, avant-garde author in Serbian literature. Ms. Stevanovic writes critical articles for periodicals, research papers as well as scholarly articles.

Simon Edwards

Generation Wars and Neo-Realist Writing in England at the End of the 20th Century

Following the period of austerity immediately after WW2 we find from the mid-1950s a series of social transformations consequent upon the reconstruction of capitalism on radically consumerist lines. The invention of the 'teenager', the Americanisation of popular music, the emergence of the teddy boy, the issue of 'juvenile delinquency', the identification of a group of writers as 'Angry Young Men' – all these are symptomatic of how these transformations were frequently understood in generational terms, a revolt against what was perceived as the ossified gerontocracy of British life. 1956 and 1968 may be seen as key dates, framing this 'cultural revolution'.

If Freudian theory postulates the family as the site of unconscious struggle, the break-up of the family and its values, came to be literally staged in the social sphere. The work of a number of novelists, poets and dramatists attempts to map these effects in forms of 'neo-realist' writing that refuses the portentous abstractions of an earlier modernism. This is no mere Bloomian literary agon, and it is relaxed in taking its models from some of the anti – modernist writers who preceded them: Waugh, Green, Auden and Orwell. The purpose of this paper is then two-fold. To identify the more general ways in which writers acquire and develop their own generic preferences for representing the fullness of social life in generational terms (Sillitoe, Osborne, Wesker, Larkin, Wilson), as well as to outline the

particular achievement of Kingsley Amis. Amis began self-identifying as an Angry Young Man, and continuing with a series of comic masterpieces that track and reflect his own ageing. This will lead to the production of wonderful black comedies that focus on the vanity, folly, prejudices, loathing and self-loathing of a diverse cast of ageing and elderly characters – a unique and often exhilarating body of work – that is matched in insight and verve only by the later more solemn and self-lacerating novels of his near contemporary, the American Philip Roth.

Since retiring from the University of Roehampton London, **Simon Edwards** has been teaching regularly at the University of Graz, the University of Bamberg and the University of Shkodra in Albania. His main research interests and publications are in the field of the historical novel and early nineteenth century English, European and American fiction.

James Everett & Anastasiya Shchebet

Maps and Territories: Literature and Culture in the Exploration of Aging and the “Inward Turn”

In this paper we explore the fusion of literature and ethnography as a mixed methodology to address questions of the “culturally-determined perceptions, attitudes and effects of human aging”. We use this approach to specifically address the question of cultural influences on the “inward turn” identified by Atchley (2011) in his review of Sherman (2010) and others as an outcome to aging and its moments.

Using the metaphor of maps and territory (Korzbinski, 1933), we propose that this mixed methodological approach takes as its organizing assumption that the “map” is given by works of literature that provide a deeper treatment to aspects of aging with verisimilitude but without the formal conventions required by empirically grounded claims. The “territory” of this approach, guided in its exploration from literature, is given by ethnography that provides a specific account of a group and its members in a cultural setting.

In this context of map and territory, we show how this approach can be employed to build deeper insights into the cultural settings, processes and individual experiences which accompany aging. We provide an example of the methodology through analysis of the story “The Thirtieth Year” by Ingeborg Bachmann (1961).

Fergal McHugh

Can the Concept of Late Style be Defended?

We argue that what is held by some (Sherman, 2011) to be an outcome to a stage of aging, like the “inward turn”, is more a response to the pressures of cultural norms and values that serve as selection criteria to sort experience into categories like good or bad. This sorting then links the inward turn to the other cultural properties and processes rather than stage-based responses to aging. In this approach, the “turns” of aging are fused with their (cultural) contexts and consequently held as unremarkable cultural exchanges rather than distinct outcomes to a stage of life.

Dr. **James Everett** is Professor in the Department of Communication, Media and Culture; Ms. **Anastasiya Shchebet** is Lecturer in the Department of Languages and Intercultural Studies. Anastasiya Shchebet is a Lecturer of German at Coastal Carolina University in the USA. She received her MA in English Linguistics from Minsk State Linguistic University, Belarus. Her research interests include Comparative Literature and Age and Aging Studies. She is planning to continue graduate studies in Comparative Literature.

the notion of a late style – a style exhibited in the works of an ensuing, typically final stage in the trajectory of an artist – continues to enjoy popularity as critical concept, even if it no longer claims the levels of interest that followed the posthumous publication of Edward Said's *On Late Style* (2006).

It is difficult to speak about a single concept. The theoretical elaborations and critical uses of the concept are diverse, ranging from superficial markers of chronology to robust and highly-developed claims about persistent features of ‘a late style’, features that span balance and serenity but also dissonance, and aesthetic and communicative intransigence. It is better to think of late style as a family of concepts, though notions such as innovation, renewal and intensive creativity are recurring motifs.

Late style has, consistently, been a controversial and contested notion, and some of the best accounts of late style in the literature are extremely critical of the concept, for example, McMullan (2007). In this talk, I look at some of the key criticisms of the notion of late style with particular attention to the charges that late style is a cultural construct rather than an intrinsic property of the works themselves (McMullan 2007), and that it is a construct ultimately against in the character (Hutcheson 2012).

I ask whether we can recover a version of late style that withstands

these criticisms and yet retains explanatory force. As part of my response, I evaluate the reception of some putative examples of late style from contemporary and near-contemporary literary fiction, with a focus on the later works of Samuel Beckett, Don DeLillo, Saul Bellow and Iris Murdoch.

Fergal McHugh – I am a postdoctoral fellow at School of Philosophy, University College Dublin. My PhD (2014) concerned the concept of late writing and late style in philosophy. In my research, I explore concepts of lateness and late style from theoretical and ethical perspectives. I am also conducting research on the role of the imagination in difficult ethical decisions. My article with Áine Mahon, 'Lateness and the Inhospitable in Stanley Cavell and Don DeLillo' is forthcoming in the next issue of *Philosophy and Literature*.

Panel 26

Recent Research in LGBT Aging

📅 Friday, April 28 / ⌚ 13:30–15:00 / 🏠 SR C1

Chair: Peg Cruikshank

Participants: Jane Traies, Peg Cruikshank, Andrew King,
Mark Hughes

LGBT elders, a minority within a minority, were largely invisible until the 2006 publication of *Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Aging, Research and Clinical Perspectives*, eds. Douglas Kimmel et al. Since then, scholarly articles from the UK, Australia, and the US have furthered interest in the subject, but mainstream gerontology is still marked by assumptions of heterosexuality. This panel aims to broaden the discussion of LGBT aging beyond the usual topics of health and provision of services. We will discuss findings from a large-scale population of lesbians over 60 in the UK, from a study of the cultural representations of LGBT ageing and older people in 40 UK and Australian websites, and from US publications on LGBT aging in 2015 and 2016. The presentations will suggest a need for perspectives from the humanities and cultural gerontology to insure that the diversity of this population is demonstrated.

Jane Traies

Older Lesbian Lives in the UK: Redressing an Imbalance in LGBT Ageing Studies



Older lesbians have frequently been described as the most invisible members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community, hidden from sight by a combination of prevailing cultural assumptions and their own unwillingness to be seen. As a result, they have been consistently under-represented both in the popular culture and in research, and less has been known about them

than about any other part of the LGBT community. The under-representation of older lesbians is to some extent replicated in the growing field of LGBT gerontology. My research with some 400 lesbians over 60 across the UK was a response to this lack of representation. My findings offer new insights into the ways in which ageing intersects with gendered sexuality in general and lesbian experience in particular. In this paper I discuss some of the ways in which past experience has shaped the current lives of older lesbians, and the ways in which their experience of ageing might differ not only from that of other women, but also of gay men.

Jane Traies is a Research Associate in the Centre for Cultural Studies at the University of Sussex, UK. She is the author of *The Lives of Older Lesbians: Sexuality, Identity and the Life Course* (Palgrave, 2016) and of a number of other publications about ageing and sexuality.

Peg Cruikshank

Recent US Publications in LGBT Aging

Founders of the National Association of Lesbian and Gay Gerontologists in California in the early 1980s confronted both ageism in their community, and indifference and heterocentrism from scholars in gerontology. A few articles in the next decades called attention to LGBT aging but recent books from mainstream publishers more firmly established its importance. While these works indicate new areas for research and activism, their limited focus on social work and psychology demonstrates a great need for future research grounded in the humanities and critical perspectives. Mainstream acceptance brings obvious benefits but also risks.

Peg Cruikshank is the author of *Learning to be Old: Gender, Culture and Aging*, 2nd ed. in 2013 and the editor of *Fierce with Reality: An Anthology of Literature on Aging*. Affiliation: Center on Aging, University of Maine, US.

Andrew King & Mark Hughes

Scripting the Cultural Imaginary: Representations of LGBT Ageing and Older People in Australia and the UK

While there is evidence of the cultural scripts lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) older people use in making sense of their lives, identities and communities, little attention has been given to how these scripts are themselves produced. This paper examines the cultural representations of LGBT ageing and older people in 40 UK and Australian websites. It is argued that these sites form part of a cultural imaginary about LGBT ageing and older people accessed by policy makers and practitioners. Employing membership categorization analysis (MCA), the study revealed attributes attached to LGBT ageing and older people categories that related to two broad narratives: a constraint narrative and a celebration narrative. It also uncovered anomalies within the text of 23 websites where celebration and constraint attributes were juxtaposed, although in 15 websites only celebration representations were apparent. The findings highlight the complexity of some representations of LGBT ageing and older people, and the limitations of framing LGBT ageing and older people in homogenous ways.

Dr. **Andrew King** is a leading LGBT researcher in the UK and has published internationally in this area of gerontology. His most recent book, published by Routledge in May 2016, was 'Older Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Adults: Identities, Intersections and Institutions'. He will shortly be publishing two books on ageing, gender and sexuality: 'Older LGBT* people – minding the knowledge gaps (Routledge) and 'Intersections of Ageing, Gender and Sexualities (Policy Press). He has recently completed research on older LGBT* people and housing in later life; the largest study in the UK for over twenty years. Andrew is also Co-Director of the Centre for Research on Ageing and Gender, University of Surrey and a Co-Editor of Sociology, the flagship journal of the British Sociological Association.

Professor **Mark Hughes** is an experienced social work academic, with over 60 publications, 28 peer-reviewed conference presentations, and 13 keynote or invited addresses. He is an internationally recognised scholar on LGBT ageing. His research on LGBT ageing has involved 7 separate projects over the past 13 years on issues such as end of life care, health and

wellbeing of LGBTI older people, and LGBT seniors' care networks. Professor Hughes has strong connections with LGBTI ageing scholars in Australia and internationally and also has considerable experience supporting new researchers and writers, particularly in his role as the Editor of Australian Social Work.

Panel 27

Taking a Critical Turn in Dementia Studies

📅 Friday, April 28 / ⌚ 13:30–15:00 / 🏠 SR C2

Chair: *Andrea Capstick*

Participants: *Linn Sandberg, Sarah Campbell, Nick Jenkins,
Andrea Capstick*

in many respects, the so-called dementia community has arrived rather belatedly at a debate on rights and citizenship in relation to dementia. Only recently, have we begun to witness the emergence of policy and analysis, where questions concerning rights, equality and social participation are being explicitly addressed. In this context, much can potentially be learned from the earlier campaigns for equality and the critical response they have subsequently engendered. Indeed, it might be argued that a more critical level or layer of analysis is largely missing from the field of dementia studies that only becomes clear when we draw comparisons to these other struggles for emancipation. It is this gap, or critical silence, in the field of dementia studies that we wish to consider in this symposium. Our intention is to make the case for a more radical critique of the social construction, conditions and politics of dementia. The papers in this symposium represent an effort to open up a critical space to reflect upon the positioning of people with dementia as part of a wider social, historical and cultural response to debility

in later life. This wider context provides the basis to examine a discourse that remains saturated with a medicalised logic of individual deficit, and is increasingly cast in a binary relationship to notions of 'healthy ageing', and to an unspecified and unmarked norm of 'able-mindedness'. We are interested in the ways that particular discourses surrounding dementia have closed down or circumvented 'alternative realities'. How, for example, has the recent struggle for acceptance and inclusion driven by a neoliberal politics of normalisation overshadowed a politics of 'anti-normalisation' that has previously marked the emergence of queer studies, radical feminism and crip/critical disability studies, all of which have evolved at the margins of an increasingly mainstream discourse of rights and recognition? This symposium is then a first step toward a more critical approach within dementia studies and will stake out new territory for the field while illustrating the benefits of learning from other radical and critical movements.

Linn Sandberg & Sarah Campbell

Troubling Corporeality and Gender in Lived Experiences of Dementia and Dementia Care

In dementia studies, there is a growing interest in embodiment, but to date there has been a little exploration of how social and cultural difference impact upon the embodied experiences of people living with dementia. Feminist ageing scholars have contributed by ensuring gender is an essential discourse within critical cultural gerontology, but discussions on gender and gendered embodiment remains largely to be explored in dementia studies. The aim of this paper is thus, to explore gendered embodiment when living with dementia. The paper draws on two ongoing empirical studies, Campbell's ethnographic study undertaken in dementia care settings with in part a focus on appearance, specifically men's, exploring grooming activities such as facial shaving and hairdressing, and Sandberg's interview study with heterosexual couples on experiences of sexuality and intimacy when living with dementia. This paper focusing on appearance and sexuality explores such questions as: when do bodies come into focus as gendered bodies in dementia care, and how do people with dementia experience the illness' impact on one's gendered embodiment? Studying the role of gendered embodiment in lived experiences of dementia is of great practical relevance for policy-makers and carers with the ambition to provide 'person-centered care' to the growing population living with dementia-related illnesses. However, the paper aims

to go beyond the discussions of practical applications, and also initiate further dialogues between feminist theory and dementia studies. Thinking with theorists such as Judith Butler, Sara Ahmed and Elizabeth Grosz, how is the performativity of gendered embodiment sustained or disrupted when living with dementia, how could the commonly assumed 'disorientations' of dementia be theorized in relation to gender, and how does the materiality of the ageing and ill body in dementia shape gendered embodiment?

Sarah Campbell is a Research Associate and Doctoral Student in the School of Health Sciences at the University of Manchester. She has worked within the Dementia and Ageing Research Team (DART) for 7 years on a number of studies exploring the everyday lives of people living with dementia. Sarah is currently working on an ESRC/NIHR study titled: Neighbourhoods: Our People, Our Places which is investigating everyday life and the experience of neighbourhood. **Linn Sandberg** is Assistant Professor in Gender Studies and lecturer at the Division of Gender studies, Stockholm University. She is currently undertaking the study 'Alzheimer's Disease, Sexuality and Intimacy: Dementia and the Intimate Partner Relationship', funded by Forte, the Swedish Research Council for Health, Working life and Welfare. Sandberg's research is devoted to making dialogues between gender studies and cultural gerontology and she has published extensively on the topics of ageing, gender and sexuality.

Nick Jenkins

I'd Rather Be a Cyborg than an 'Individual' with Dementia: Exploring Critical Posthumanism and Its Application to Dementia Policy and Practice

W Within our dementia policy and practice communities, efforts to challenge stigma and advance social justice are characterised, predominantly by appeals to the essential humanity of people living with progressive neurocognitive conditions. Normative concepts such as Personhood and Social Citizenship, for example, increasingly underpin national and international dementia policies; providing conceptual frameworks for challenging de-humanization and promoting rights-based approaches to diagnosis, care and support. Yet, this paper will argue that since the early 19th century, appealing to the human in relation to dementia has served as something of a double edged sword; on the one hand, providing dementia communities with practical and theoretical frameworks for advancing social justice whilst, on the other hand, re-enforcing implicit and normative understandings of what it means to be a person that, ultimately, serves to position people with dementia as deficient. Drawing on key principles associated with critical posthumanism, this paper will explore the extent to which dementia communities need to

move beyond the human in their pursuit of equality and social justice. In so doing, it will consider how critical posthumanist approaches to constructing persons may provide new and practical avenues for generating socially progressive caring relationships within our (increasingly) digital societies.

Dr. **Nicholas Jenkins** is a Senior Lecturer in Sociology & Social Policy at the University of the West of Scotland, UK. Since taking up a Chancellor's Fellowship at the University of Edinburgh in 2012, his work has focused on exploring the theoretical frameworks that underpin contemporary policy and practice approaches to dementia. His current interests focus on conceptualizing dementia and care within the context of the digital society. Dr Jenkins is also a co-opted member of the Scottish Dementia Working Group (www.sdwg.org) – a leading user – led campaigning organisation in dementia – where he advises the group on dementia-related research.

Andrea Capstick

Reframing 'Challenging Behaviour' as Cultural Resistance: The Refusal of Bare Life in Long-term Dementia Care

This paper considers the situation of people with dementia who are living in long-term care from two rarely-applied theoretical perspectives. The first, Agamben's theory of biopolitical life versus bare life, demonstrates that the situation of people with dementia living in care homes or hospitals approximates to that of prisoners, internees and refugees, deprived of full citizenship or biopolitical life. In popular imagery people with dementia are frequently referred to, first in terms of numbers, as a 'rising tide', in a way that has historically been used to justify discrimination and social exclusion. In many, care environments it is, moreover, still the case that people with dementia are reduced to a condition of 'bare life' only: given little choice, having few rights, lacking freedom of movement, and subjected to almost constant surveillance. In other contexts, such treatment is known to cause or exacerbate many of the problems which – following a biomedical model – are constructed as 'symptoms of dementia', such as disorientation in time and space, sleep disturbance, hallucinations and repetitive movement. The second body of theory is Bakhtin's work on cultural resistance. This demonstrates that

many of the so-called 'challenging behaviours' manifested by people with dementia, can better be understood as coping, sense-making and self-determining strategies adopted in order to survive within prevailing organisational cultures. Based on a series of studies carried out in intermediate and long-term care since 2009, the paper draws on a range of narrative and film-based examples to demonstrate the 'courage, humour, fortitude and cunning' with which, as Walter Benjamin noted, the oppressed have always met the conditions of their oppression. In the process, 'challenging behaviour' is given political and ideological meaning, as protest, perpetrated by people who are struggling against extreme odds to be reinstated as full citizens.

Andrea Capstick leads the MSc Dementia Studies programme in the School of Dementia Studies at the University of Bradford, UK. She also leads the School's patient and public involvement (PPI) work, having taken the lead role in establishing a panel of Experts by Experience (people with dementia, their friends and families) who contribute to all the School's teaching, research and practice development. Her doctoral research was on the use of film and narrative biography in the education of dementia practitioners. Her current research interests are in critical theory, arts and humanities-based approaches to research on dementia, and participatory visual research methods. Her most recent research study, funded by the National Institute for Health Research's School for Social Care Research, involved participatory film-making with people with dementia living in the long-term care, and she has published and presented widely on this and related subjects.

Session F

Panel 28

Women/Age/Film

📅 Friday, April 28 / ⌚ 17:00–18:30 / 🏠 SR KW 12

Chair: Ulla Kriebnernegg

Participants: Hannah Grist, Hanna Varjakoski, Sally Chivers

Hannah Grist

Television as Heritage: The Politics of the Ageing Female Body in Lena Dunham's *Girls* (HBO, 2012 – present)

This paper takes the concept that 'we are aged by culture' (Gullette, 2004) as a way to explore the intergenerational imagining and representation of becoming/being an older woman in Lena Dunham's HBO's award-winning show *Girls* (2012 – present). Notions of chronological age have been a dominant aspect of the intertextual context of the series from the outset and much has been made of Dunham's own youth. But how does age (both Dunham's own age, and the ages – and experiences of ageing – of her characters) figure in the show? Moreover, when television is conceptualized as a form of heritage (Garde-Hansen & Grist, 2015), this paper asks what intergenerational imaginings of the older female body are laid out for audiences?

Rather than accepting rigid notions of generation such as 'millennial' and 'baby boomer', this paper draws on the concept of 'life course' (Katz, 2005) to examine the ways that this text, celebrated for the politically overt championing of the realistic female body as an antidote to "mad photo-shop," represents the older female body and imagines its ageing. This

paper argues that, while *Girls* might be considered a ground breaking show on many levels, its representation of female older age and her older body is unable to transcend dominant negative tropes. Through conceptualizing television as heritage, this paper explores current intergenerational politics of cultural ageism and chronological models of ageing as barriers to an imaginary where older women can be represented as powerfully complex and diverse.

Hannah Grist is a Lecturer in Media, and researcher in the Centre for Women, Ageing and Media (WAM) at the University of Gloucestershire. Hannah is co-editor of the Postgraduate Journal of Women, Ageing and Media (PG-WAM). Hannah was awarded her PhD in cultural studies and memory studies by the University of Gloucestershire in 2015. Hannah has published on the use of auto ethnography in qualitative research in the University of Glasgow's eSharp publication, has presented at De Montfort University's Media Discourse series, and contributes to research modules at the University of Gloucestershire. Hannah teaches media and cultural theory at undergraduate level. Hannah also peer reviews for MECCSA's Networking Knowledge, and is currently working on a Special Edition titled 'Ageing in a Networked Society'. Hannah has published an article in PGWAM titled 'I, Anna (2012) and the Femme Fatale: Neo-noir and Representations of Female Old Age,' and is currently working on an auto ethnographic piece on the times and spaces of caring for older people, as well as supervising a number of PhD projects which are connected to memory, ageing and representation.

Hanna Varjakoski

Imagining Later Life on Silver Screen: Aging Women in Finnish Contemporary Film

Domestic films have been very popular in Finland for many years now – a phenomenon often referred to as the “boom of the Finnish films”. As a popular entertainment, films have potential not only to impact the ways aging and later life is imagined and understood, but also potential to expand or limit our perceptions of what is possible and what is not. In my paper, I ask what kind of gendered cultural scripts and possible trajectories into old age contemporary Finnish film offers particularly for aging women, while also inquiring after the possible nationally specific attributes of these cinematic representations. The wider reference point to this paper is located in the discussions about the ‘new cultural visibility of older women’. This in mind, I also intend to explore the (im)possibilities of imagining ‘successful’ aging in the films without recourse to youthening and consumption.

Hanna Varjakoski – I am a Ph.D student in Media Studies, at the School of History, Culture and Arts, University of Turku, Finland. In my dissertation I examine aging and the cultural construction of old age in Finnish contemporary film and media culture.

Sally Chivers

What's Exotic about "The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel"? Cinema, Everyday Life and Aging under Austerity

This presentation will examine The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel cinema franchise (UK, 2011 & 2015) in relation to the care home franchise it represents. In particular, I will articulate how the films characterize British seniors outsourcing of retirement to India as both economically sensible and personally extraordinary, glossing over the everyday life of Jaipur residents. This not only replicates colonialism, re-igniting the orientalist appeal of works such as "A Passage to India", but it also cloaks the imperialist venture in cheerleading for neoliberal market models of care-particularly the combination of devolution and responsibility that Wendy Brown explains in "Sacrificial Citizenship: Neoliberalism, Human Capital, and Austerity Politics." That both films garnered box office success indicates that they offer a fulfilling and rewarding fantasy of late life. Over the course of the two films, the central British characters fall for a largely false advertisement on a website, move to Jaipur for financial reasons spurred by a sense of adventure or desperation to make their dwindling monetary resources go further, and use the former British empire as a means to purchase the late life they thought they were entitled to at home.

Despite the British characters' subtle and overt xenophobia, they are welcomed for not only their financial contributions but also because they bring skills considered essential to an economy in the midst of transforming to new forms of capitalism (the older Brits train call center employees help run the otherwise hopeless hotel and work as textile buyers). Thus, I will argue that the films try to make exotic the everyday (white) life of old age, including the need for a new collective living situations. However, the exoticism relies on racism arising from making one person's everyday into another person's exotic, offering a canny perspective on the under-analyzed racial politics of contemporary aging.

Sally Chivers is Professor in the department of English and of Gender and Women's Studies at Trent University, where she is also a founding executive member of the Trent Centre for Aging and Society. She is the author of *From Old Woman to Older Women: Contemporary Culture and Women's Narratives* (2003, Ohio State UP) and *The Silvering Screen: Old Age and Disability in Cinema* (2011, U of Toronto P). With Nicole Markotic, she co-edited *The Problem Body: Projecting Disability on Film* (2010, Ohio State UP). She is a member of the international interdisciplinary research team, "Reimagine Long-Term Residential Care: An International Study of Promising Practices," currently has funding to study "Challenging the 'Nursing Home Specter' in the Age of Austerity," and is working on a collection of essays entitled *Care Home Stories: Challenges, Changes, and Continuities*, co-edited with Ulla Kriebnernegg for publication in the Aging Studies series of Transcript Verlag.

Panel 29

IT/Media II

📅 Friday, April 28 / ⌚ 17:00–18:30 / 🏠 SR KW 21

Chair: Loredana Ivan

Participants: Sanna Kivimäki, Dolores Castrillo, Loredana Ivan

Sanna Kivimäki

“Never television in the morning!” Aged Women’s Strategies of Navigating in the Current Media Landscape

Despite the rapidly growing number of aged people in the industrialized countries, it is difficult to find knowledge of media’s role in everyday practices throughout people’s life course, in pleasure and desire, not to mention the emotional aspects of media use in everyday life. In order to fill in this gap, I have collected aged women’s media memories in Tampere, Finland, in 2015–2016. In my study, I ask the following questions: 1) how aged women narrate their relation to the media and how their media usage is intertwined with everyday life, 2) how they narrate changes in media during their lifetimes, and 3) how they reflect their feelings and emotions evoked by media contents. In this presentation, I will focus on aged women’s navigating strategies in the current media environment, based on their written media memories. I have found seven varying strategies to negotiate with the media contents and their own expectations: 1) The active avoidance of uncomfortable media encounters, such as sex and violence. 2) Controlling and organizing daily routines carefully. 3) Multitasking (e.g. knitting) when listening to the radio

and/or watching television. 4) Resisting bad contents by talking back. 5) Celebrating the skills learned in their earlier years, such as focused reading and listening. 6) Concentrating on the “feel good” contents of media, such as human interest stories and survival stories. 7) Valuing social relations higher than media, and understanding media as a social relationship.

PhD **Sanna Kivimäki**, School of Communication, Media and Theatre, (from 2017 on, Faculty of Communication), University of Tampere, Finland. Post-doc researcher on grant (Finnish Cultural Foundation), studying aged women's media memories and their relations to the changing media landscape.

Dolores Castrillo

Elderly Learners in Massive Open Online Courses: A Case Study Based on a Language MOOC

The emergence of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) is a natural evolution of e-learning, which has been classified as disruptive by some researchers (Conole, 2015; Yuan & Powell, 2013), since it has revolutionized the field of long-life learning. By 2015, there were 35:000:000 students who had participated in at least one MOOC in one of the 570 universities and 12 providers that offered them (OECD, 2016), which demonstrates the staggering amount of learners that have shown interest in this new methodology.

As for the elderly population and according to different sources, Internet use by older people has increased dramatically during the past ten years (Sanchez-Gordon & Luján, S. 2013). Furthermore, the number of users over 65 has more than doubled since 2000; in fact, thousands of elderly learners are participating in MOOCs all over the world (Liyana-gunawardena & Williams, 2016). It should also be noted that MOOCs are particularly committed to accessibility, a feature that is also relevant for the elderly, due to the age-related problems such as vision decline, hearing loss, poorer motor skills and cognition issues (Carter & Merkel, 2001). All this seems to indicate that this new educational environment will have significant consequences among aged learners.

There is very little research into understanding elderly learners in MOOCs, so it remains quite an unexplored field. The author of this paper contributes to bridging this gap by analyzing the results of the participation of elderly population throughout the five editions of the Language MOOC “German for Spanish speakers”. This MOOC had already about 70:000 participants and was awarded in its first edition (2013) the first prize to the best MOOC by the Spanish Ministry of Education. This paper will show how elderly learners have engaged in this MOOC and their distinctive features, which differentiate them from other types of learners.

Dr. M. Dolores Castrillo is a Senior Lecturer at UNED, in the areas of German Studies and CALL (Computer-Assisted Language Learning). Member of the ATLAS (Applying Technology to LAnguageS) group, her current research interests include Computer-Mediated Communication, Elearning, Mobile Assisted Language Learning (MALL), Open Educational Resources (OERs) and MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses). Her publications include papers in indexed journals and book chapters both at national and international level. She has won two prizes related to Open Learning: Best Open CourseWare (2008) and best MOOC (2013), both awarded by the Spanish Ministry of Education. Her latest initiative is GLOBE (Group for Languages in Open and Blended Environments).

Loredana Ivan

A Participatory Action Design to Reinforce Older People’s Meanings of Computer Tasks in Digital Creation Contexts

We conducted a participatory action research project to address the topic of “agency in ageing and technology” by considering the concepts of “autonomy” and “empowerment”. Our purpose is to advance deep knowledge of computer interaction, and to explore people’s everyday interactions with computers in a process of collaborative knowledge creation (Eubanks, 2011). We depart from the fact that positive attitudes towards technology are found when older adults are motivated to maintain independence and social connections (Wild et al., 2012). Motivating factors play an important role in technology adoption for this age group. There is evidence that older adults are influenced in their decision to use new technologies by the perceived utility and applications in daily life, and by the potential effect on their well-being (Demiris et al. 2013; Heart & Kalderon, 2013; Fernández-Ardèvol & Ivan & 2013). In this research project conducted at one Seniors Club in Bucharest we target creative use of computers for self-presentation. The experiences engage the senior participants to share their life narrative in creative ways. The session was recorded and we analyze the

data through participant observation and in-depth interviews. The results are discussed by taking into account the challenges of the “knowledge society” and the role of ICTs in increasing or decreasing disparities between people from different age groups. We argue that indeed it is important for people later in life to use new communication and information technologies, but by accentuating that they “must” do this in order to “adapt” we are limiting their willingness to approach ICT. Our project emphasizes the importance of the task relevance for this age group and the meaning of computer tasks experiences in explaining the functional or dis-functional value of computer anxiety, when discussing older people technology adoption.

Loredana Ivan (born in 1976, Bucharest, Romania) is Associate Professor, at the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (SNSPA), Communication Department, where she teaches courses of Interpersonal Communication, Social Psychology and Research Methods. She is co-founder of the Social Cognition and Communication of Emotion Lab (CSCE); Member of ACT (Ageing Communication Technology), a research group that includes specialists from Canada, US, Spain, UK, Finland, The Netherlands, Peru, Malaysia and Romania; Principal Investigator in the project AgeTech: Computer Anxiety: Understanding Technology Later in Life; PN –II –RU –TE –2014 –4 –042; financed by UEFISCDI (<http://centrucomunicare.ro/agetech/proiect.html>).

Panel 30

Changes in Patterns: Literature II

📅 Friday, April 28 / ⌚ 17:00–18:30 / 🏠 Conference Hall

Chair: Anneliese Heinisch

Participants: Elizabeth Barry, Blossom Fondo, Billy Gray

Elizabeth Barry

Genres of Ageing: Old Age, Realism and the Real in Modern Literature

this paper will take off from Elaine Marks's brief but thought-provoking study of the ageing body in Simone de Beauvoir's late writing, applying in a more extensive manner Marks's idea that ageing is often perceived as (an) unmediated "experience" not conducive to theorization or even analysis. Ageing can and does often function as the 'other' to symbolization, a kind of Lacanian Real. Such an idea is compatible but not identical with the way in which old age is seen by Helen Small and others, to fall outside of many familiar narrative structures.

Experience has another face, however, and the one that underpins the narratives of realism in which a character grows and learns and thereby obtains a 'character'. Eschewing the idea of "experience" may, as Marks goes on to argue, also be to renounce (as Jean-Paul Sartre did) the privilege of age whereby one accumulate – in mind and body – a stock of 'experience' that can be translated into maxims or ways of living.

Starting with De Beauvoir but also encompassing work by Marguerite Duras and J. M. Coetzee, this paper will propose a radical reconceiving of the function of old age in literature, whereby it is neither pure and unmediated (and therefore often abject) bodily experience, nor the experience is an attribute of 'character' and as such often an (inconsequential) end in itself in the realist text. It will think about the pressure that the representa-

Blossom Fondo

Coming to Terms: Aging and Moral Regeneration in J.M. Coetzee's *Age of Iron* and *Elizabeth Costello*

tion of ageing puts on the genre, and why the best writing on old age (even life-writing) cannot be reduced to mere 'experience', whether the latter is (overly) degraded or (overly) privileged in its conception.

Dr. **Elizabeth Barry** is Associate Professor in English at the University of Warwick, UK. She is the author of *Beckett and Authority* (Palgrave, 2006) and has edited issues of the International Journal of Cultural Studies, Journal of Beckett Studies, and Journal of Medical Humanities. Her interests lie in modern literature, and medical humanities (in particular, mental health and ageing). She has held two public grants to work with doctors on using literature to investigate disorders of self.

The process of aging is generally viewed negatively across cultures and this is due to some commonly held misconceptions that first of all consider aging as synonymous with old age; which in itself is given many negative attributes. This is a failure to recognize the fact that the (inevitable) process of aging commences the moment an ovum is fertilized in the womb. One reason aging is thus negatively viewed is because of the physical degeneration, attendant illnesses and the specter of death. To consider aging this way is to see the human subject as only a physical being; whereas humans are multifaceted. Much of what affects humanity and the world as a whole are generally borne not of the physical aspect of humans but from the intellect or moral instinct. So to place the physical over the moral is limiting. While humans indeed become weaker as they advance in years especially as they move towards later life, this does not necessarily imply a degeneration of moral values particularly as far as the postcolonial condition is concerned. This paper has two proposes: firstly, a view of aging in the postcolonial context as a

form of moral regeneration, and secondly, an attempt of the formulation of what I term postcolonial literary and critical gerontology. This will be done through a reading of South African writer J.M. Coetzee's novels *Age of Iron* and *Elizabeth Costello*. Both texts feature aging female protagonists whose advancement in age is matched by a heightened sense of moral duty to the oppressed of the world. This is illustrated through their evolving perceptions on relations between peoples, races, and the human and non-human subjects. These characters show through their matured views that even though aging is evitable and non-discriminate, it is by no means negative and that the physical degeneration is not concomitant with a moral deterioration as well. As these characters age, they move beyond mere self-preservation to consider especially the oppressed of their worlds, and also from passivism to activism with a view to making the world a better and more just place. This is particularly relevant for the postcolonial context which seeks to undo the excesses of colonialism and various forms of domination in their different dimensions. I will therefore be seeking an-

swers to questions such as: How do the characters respond to the changes in their lives?, In what ways are their changing perspectives in tune with the postcolonial sensibility?, how do such postcolonial questions of domination, racism, exploitation, resistance and interrogations conflate with the process of aging?, and how does the narrative genre provide possibilities for exploring aging?

Blossom N. Fondo is associate professor of Commonwealth Literature. She teaches postcolonial literatures, critical theory and African-American Literature at the Higher Teacher Training College of the University of Maroua, Cameroon. Her research is principally concerned with the postcolonial intervention in literary genres and theories. She has published extensively in these fields. She has been a visiting scholar to New York University in the USA and the University of Graz in Austria.

Billy Gray

'All ages and no age': Reflections on Ageing, Memory and the Temporality of Psychic Life in Irma Kurtz's *Then Again: Travels in Search of My Younger Self*

In her recently published text *Out of Time: The Pleasures and the Perils of Ageing* (2013), Lynne Segal argues that, in relation to the ageing process, 'what essentially matters is neither the sociology nor the biology of ageing but the narrative of the self, the stories we tell ourselves'. Psychoanalyst Christopher Bollas suggests that, in order to achieve a functioning personal narrative, each individual requires a perspectival mapping of his/her 'internal topography' as the past does not simply lie dormant awaiting some form of resurrection but holds the potential for creative collaboration. One recent text which specifically engages with the pivotal role that memory plays in the ageing process and whether it is possible to, as Bollas suggests, 'make the past available for the self's future', is Irma Kurtz's travelogue/memoir entitled *Then Again: Travels in Search of My Younger Self* (2003). Born in New Jersey in 1935 to Eastern European immigrants, Irma Kurtz has written four autobiographical texts, several novels, as well as a number of publications related to her long-standing role as 'agony aunt' for *Cosmopolitan* mag-

azine. My reading of Kurtz's *Then Again* will focus upon how it engages with psychoanalyst Donald Winnicott's perspective on what he terms 'the wayward temporality of psychic life'. Kurtz's emphasis upon the threads of continuity that enable us to both differentiate and recapitulate past experiences as we experience ageing, will be specifically linked to Winnicott's belief that ageing represents a multiplicity of continuities over time, and how a successful negotiation of the ageing process depends upon an ability to make use of the self as an object of memory that simultaneously is, and is not, equivalent to its present manifestation(s). Kurtz's delineation of 'the strange recurring residues of the past in the present' is accompanied by a belief in the strategic importance for the ageing individual to accept the possibility of creating an identity which can both embrace a continuous sense of fluidity, while accepting that it is impossible to ignore those distinct positions we find ourselves in as we age. My article will attempt to depict the central roles that memory and narration must play if such possibilities are to be achieved.

Billy Gray is Associate Professor of English at Dalarna University, Sweden. He edits the section on history, politics and culture in the peer-reviewed journal *Nordic Irish Studies*. His research interests include Doris Lessing and Sufism, Northern Irish literature, and Irish essayists such as Hubert Butler, Chris Arthur and Conor Cruise O'Brien.



Panel 31

Biographies

📅 Friday, April 28 / ⌚ 17:00–18:30 / 🏠 SR B1

Chair: *Rosa Hergan*

Participants: *Tiina Suopajärvi, Andreas Schuch*

Tiina Suopajärvi

Ageing with the City

the way being and moving around in public urban places is experienced is affected by personal histories with those places. However, not only people occupying places but also the material elements, like buildings, pavements and lighting, go through changes within these histories. In recent years also the urban computing technologies have started to participate in the negotiations of what kinds of practices and agents are appropriate, or possible, in the cities. For instance, some services might be so tightly connected with smartphones that people without these phones are cut-off from the services. Thus, though the digitalization might on the one hand enhance the equality between the citizens; it may, on the other hand, create new marginalization.

In my anthropological study, I have interviewed seniors on their ICT-biographies; walked with them in the city center of Oulu, to understand their experiences on moving in public places; and worked with them in collaborative workshops to create better participatory practices in designing public services for seniors. This ethnographic collage has generated knowledge on how ageing is experienced in relation to one's own history; to other people and material elements of the city; and to the social discourses on ageing. In my presentation, I will focus on how the narrations of ageing are entangled with the narrations of the past, present and future home city. How does the digitalized city look like from the seniors' perspective; and

further, how do the ideologies and strategies chosen by the city affect the lived and narrated ageing of its citizens.

Adjunct professor, Dr. **Tiina Suopajärvi** is a cultural anthropologist specialized in the studies of ageing, technology and place-making. Methodologically she is inspired by feminist technoscience studies, new materialism and design anthropology. In her recent research project, Suopajärvi has focused on ageing as both lived experience and socio-cultural phenomenon in the “smart city” of Oulu. Currently, she works as a lecturer of European Ethnology at the University of Helsinki.

Andreas Schuch

Digital Games as a Means of Raising Awareness about Ageism and Gender Discrimination: Three Principles for Teachers and Game Developers

This paper presents three principles for how digital games could be used by teachers, or designed by game developers, to raise awareness about and discuss discrimination, stereotyping, inequality, and other issues connected to age, aging, gender identity, and sexual preference. In other words, an intersectional approach is developed with special focus on age and gender, aiming to facilitate learning and game design processes about harmful social constructions. The three principles are: 1) encourage minimizing hurdles for players to access and play games, 2) diversify the content within a game or across multiple games, and 3) encourage intergenerational learning processes. These principles primarily draw on educational research, but are intended to be used by teachers and game developers alike. Regarding principle 2, a model is derived from sample games with the goal to inform lesson plan creation and game selection processes for teachers as well as design choices for game developers. The independent digital game development scene served as the primary source for the development of the model. Because games

revolving around age- and aging-related topics appear to be exceedingly rare, the proposed principles were initially developed with LGBTQ* topics in mind. However, it is demonstrated that the developed model can also be applied to other social dimensions such as age.

Andreas Schuch – I have recently graduated from the University of Graz with a master's degree. Currently, I am doing the required one-year teaching internship, teaching the subjects English and Computer Science at the Graz International Bilingual School. After completing the teaching internship this summer, I intend to enter a PhD program on digital games research at the University of Graz while also continuing teaching at a school. My recent academic work includes my diploma thesis with the title Aesthetic Illusion in Digital Games as well as an article about teaching strategies on dealing with ageism and gender discrimination with the help of digital games.

Panel 32

Matrices of Interpreting Age

📅 Friday, April 28 / ⌚ 17:00–18:30 / 🏠 SR C1

Chair: *Maricel Oró-Piqueras*

Participants: *Christopher Braun, Galit Nimrod, Liza Berdychevsky,
Renee Beard*

Christopher Braun

Getting Old in Medieval Egypt: Some Remarks on Counteracting the Side Effects of Old Age in the Arabic Magical Tradition

In medieval Egypt, the prospect of getting old was not a pleasant one for everyone. Some feared the negative consequences of this inevitable process. Old age was not generally perceived in negative terms. Getting old also meant to gain experience and wisdom. The honorific title sheikh, for example, is commonly used for the head of a tribe or the man of learning and implies the advanced age of the person addressed. Furthermore, the Qur'anic message reminded the community of believers that aging belongs to the natural course of a human's life cycle and, as such, represents the will of God: 'God is the one who created you from weakness, then made after weakness strength, then made after strength weakness and white hair. He creates what He wills, and He is the Knowing, the Competent.' (Q 30:54). However, some did not come to terms with their ineluctable fate and attempted to maintain or recover their strength and youthfulness in applying different methods to counteract the negative side effects of old age. Arabic works on magic contain numerous recipes on how to retain one's physical strength, virility,

Galit Nimrod & Liza Berdychevsky

Strategies in Representations of Age and Aging in Older Adults' Humor

and youthful appearance. Their promises are in no way less pretentious than the unproven claims of modern anti-aging pills and creams. In this paper, I will present some representative specimens of this literature and try to decode, on the basis of these texts, the underlying assumptions and expectations of aging within the cultural matrix of Islamic society. These unique testimonies shed light on the ways members of medieval Egyptian society engaged with youthfulness and old age. They bring to light the fears and desires of the common population that were not so much different to our modern emotional encounters with the steady transformation of our bodies over time.

Christopher Braun – I studied Islamic history and Arabic language and literature at the Free University of Berlin and at the Sorbonne nouvelle in Paris. At the moment, I am doing a Ph.D. in applied historical sciences at the Warburg Institute in London. In my Ph.D. thesis, I investigate the origins and social context of Arabic manuscripts on magic from the late Mamluk and Ottoman period (ca. 15th to 19th century).

Research has demonstrated that humor provides older adults with a powerful tool for coping with the losses and changes associated with aging. It is unclear, however, whether seniors' own humor reflects common negative stereotypes regarding later life and therefore points at internalization of ageist perceptions (i.e., self-ageism), or rather offers a venue for coping with and even resisting such stereotypes. As sex is the most salient topic in ageist jokes, this study analyzed the contents of 300 humorous sex-related messages posted in seniors' online communities in order to explore the roles elders' humor plays in relation to ageism – i.e., reproducing or resisting ageism. Analysis revealed that the portrayal of older adults in the messages depended on the humor butt's social identity. If the butt of the humor was an in-group member (oneself, another community member, or the community as a group), the portrayal was rather positive and anti-ageist, but when the butt belonged to the outgroup (older adults in general) the depiction was quite ageist. Nonetheless, the representations of the older butts of the humor

were generally more positive than the depictions of younger adults. These findings suggest that seniors use humor to personally resist ageism by applying two main strategies: (1) distancing, namely, reproducing some ageist stereotypes by ascribing them to other older adults, but less to their group and even less to oneself, and (2) equalizing older and younger individuals and even presenting the latter as disadvantaged.

Galit Nimrod, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor at the Department of Communication Studies and a research fellow at the Center for Multidisciplinary Research in Aging at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel. Aiming to contribute to the understanding of well-being in later life, Dr. Nimrod studies psychological and sociological aspects of leisure, media and technology use among older adults. **Liza Berdychevsky**, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Recreation, Sport and Tourism at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Her work evolves at the nexus of health and wellbeing in leisure and tourism contexts, adopting a gender-sensitive and a life course-grounded approach. She focuses on sexual behavior and risk taking among young and senior adults in various leisure and tourism contexts.

Renee Beard

What Alzheimer's Narratives Tell Us about American Images of Aging

Alzheimer's disease (AD) is ubiquitous within the American media, political and medical landscape, yet an AD diagnosis remains socially constructed as a "death sentence" over a century after its founding. Indeed, the relative paucity of discourse regarding living with the condition in the mass media and allopathic medical model reveals the underlying assumption that people with AD cannot in fact "narrate" their own experiences based in an insidious and deep-seated cultural ageism. Drawing on mixed method qualitative datasets from individual, dyad and group interviews, my findings demonstrate the power of narrative data to "give voice" to help recover some of what has been lost in translation for American seniors in general and especially those with Alzheimer's. Using grounded theory methods to collect, code and analyze study data, common themes across the disparate life stories include negative psychosocial aspects but also keen examples of agency, resilience and identity construction. In many ways, some of the most challenging aspects of living with AD involve the interactional tensions with social others, rather than the management of the so-called biological manifestations of the ailment. Given the powerful messages portrayed in these data, I argue that my findings serve as a type of "counter narrative" that has both psychosocial as well as social justice benefits. The potential

of the “narrative turn” within healthcare, and especially the sociology of health and illness, to challenge pejorative American framings of AD and the medicalization of the condition itself are an important and much-needed departure from the dominant biomedical reductionism. The major challenges of living with AD in the United States, my respondents suggest, cannot be addressed until the cultural myths espousing an inability to age or experience dementia with dignity are debunked.

Renee Beard – I got my doctorate in medical sociology from the University of California in San Francisco. For the following 3 years, I was a National Institute of Aging postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Illinois Chicago. I joined the faculty at the College of the Holy Cross, in Worcester, Massachusetts, in 2008 and am currently an Associate Professor. I have published widely on the subjective experiences of Alzheimer’s drawing on illness narratives, including a piece coauthored with a woman who had AD and her husband. I have also examined the Alzheimer’s disease movement, clinicians at specialty memory clinics, and the literature on arts based therapies for people with dementia. In 2016, my book entitled “Living with Alzheimer’s: Managing Memory Loss, Identity, and Illness” came out with New York University Press. This book offers an important counter narrative

to the overwhelmingly pejorative and deficit-based perspectives commonly espoused in American media and medical institutions. Most recently, I have been following affected couples over time to understand their joint and individual experiences of Alzheimer’s.

Imaging Queer Aging, Sexuality and Stereotypes

📅 Saturday, April 29 / ⌚ 9:00–10:30 / 🏠 SR KW 12

featured by Evidence & Imagination Special Edition No. 1

Chair: Raquel Medina

Participants: Nathalie Bödicker, Raquel Medina,
Hernando Gómez Prada

Although demographic aging is a global phenomenon, audiovisual texts are starting slowly to capture and make it visible. In Western cultures, aging bodies have been hidden, and therefore subject to stigma and exclusion (Casper and Moore 2009). The discrimination of aging, especially positive aging, in audiovisual media is even greater when the subjects are women and/or are not heterosexual. This panel proposes to analyze different cinematic and fictional TV series representations of queer aging.

In *Old Age*, Simone de Beauvoir (1983) shows how society represents and marginalizes older people. Hegemonic social speeches have constructed old age as a concept characterized by passivity, decrepitude, fragility and lack of productivity. So the word itself is loaded with negative connotations that necessarily have to be eliminated, as well as the stereotypes created around old age. Discourses on aging, therefore, have caused discrimination against older people through the creation and support of cultural narratives that homogenize and stereotype aging, impelling the aging

subject to constantly attempting to hide the signs of aging from the body (Cole et al 1993; Featherstone 2000; Gullette 2004; Katz 1995; Woodward 1991). Hence, as indicated by Margaret Cruikshank (2008), the body has become the text on which age is inscribed and presented as the expression of decay, or its attempt to mask it.

Feminist analysis about age and aging demonstrates the intersectionality of questions of age, gender, sexuality, religion, nationality, etc. In this sense, Margaret Morganroth Gullette (2004) has analyzed the discriminatory effects that aging has had on women; while Kathleen Woodward (1999) has also explored how such discrimination affects older women in multiple ways, but especially how it is particularly focused on the female body from the male gaze.

From a queer framework, Judith Halberstam (2005) defines queer spaces as those in which tolerance towards difference and ambiguity reigns. Judith Butler (1990) states that the origin of patriarchal heterosexuality is determined by the association that is made of biological binary male /

female with gender man / woman, the identification of LGBT experiences with sexual identity impels gender issues to equally affect homosexual men and women, as Brian Heaphy (2007) has studied.

Bearing in mind the approaches to ageing and gender outlined above, this panel will explore four different approaches to imaging queer aging. Bødicker brings together the dimensions of ageing in rural settings and the increased scientific interest they attract (Suen 2015; Edmondson 2015) along with concepts of gender, rurality and ageing as cultural constructions. Medina will explore how heteronormativity restores male/female binary by identifying the sexuality of two aging women in the Basque Country in terms of masculinity in the film *80 egunean*. Finally, Gómez-Prada will analyze the web series *Transparent*, in which a 70-year-old female transgender is the main character. When Morton tells his family about his desire to be a woman, all hegemonic concepts of normativity, sexuality, aging, and family roles fall apart.

Nathalie Bødicker

Women's Aging in a Rural Non-heterosexual Context: Born to Suffer (Spain, 2009)

The rise of Spanish films and documentaries on old age and ageing does not only reflect the demographic change and the clear increase in the number of elderly people in Spain, but it also contributes to improve the visibility of multiply marginalized older people, like elderly women and LGBT elders, although most films do not focus on social groups but on pathological ageing.

Even though ageing in a non-heterosexual context and ageing in rural settings have attracted increased scientific interest (e. g. Suen 2015; Edmondson 2015), both topics remain remarkably understudied. This paper brings together the dimensions of ageing above-mentioned, engaging with concepts of gender, rurality and ageing as cultural constructions. Mass media, especially films, help to rethink ageing and age-related issues in society. In *Born to Suffer* (Nacidas para sufrir, 2009), Miguel Albaladejo gives voice to elderly women who grew up under the Franco regime (1939–75) and its discriminatory laws, and now lead a non-heterosexual life in the countryside. The aim of the contribution is to analyze the representations of the older characters, their (intergenerational) relationships, and the identification models offered by this Spanish film.

Born to Suffer offers an alternative representation of women's ageing in Spanish society: Flora – the old female character – wonders who would care for her when she couldn't look after herself any longer. She opts for a homosexual marriage with her housekeeper Purita, which is a clear reference to the legalization of same-sex marriage in Spain in 2005.

Nathalie Bödicker is a PhD student in Romance Literatures and Cultures at Giessen University, Germany. Her thesis examines the representations of female migration in contemporary Spanish film; her dissertation research focuses on the representations of ageing and old age in Spanish film.

Raquel Medina

Aging, Lesbianism and Heteronormativity in the Basque Film *80 Egunean* (2010)



Even though aging is a global phenomenon, film as a cultural text does not mirror the reality of our contemporary ageing population. In Western cultures, ageing bodies are hidden; they are subject to stigma and exclusion. Older people's discrimination in film is even greater when they are women and / or are not heterosexual. In 2010 two Basque directors, Jon Garaño and Jose Mari Goenaga, screened *80 egunean* – *In 80 days* – a film that portrays the emotional and sexual relationship between two 70-year-old women: one who is openly lesbian and another one who is married and mother of an adult daughter. This article analyses *80 egunean* from the intersection between gender, sexuality and age as intertwined and overlapping aspects. The relationship between the two women is spatially and temporally placed in such a way that refers symbolically to a deeper exploration of age, sexuality and gender – and even the concept of family and Basque identity. In addition, this paper will examine how the notion of sexual identity is not presented in its nomadic quality as one would expect in a LGBT-themed film, but as a fixed one. By contrast, both the heteronormativity and the male gaze understood as the hegemonic discourses through which heterosexual relationships are institutionalized, will ultimately prevail. Although the film shows the “normalization” of homosexuality in the Basque social landscape, the analysis will reveal that it does not offer a queer space and time.

Hernando Gómez Prada

***Transparent* and the Cathodic Subversive Aging**

Raquel Medina – After working as Assistant Professor (1994 –2000) and then Associate Professor of Spanish (2000 –2006) at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, I joined Aston University as Head of Spanish in 2006. I am the author of *Surrealismo en la poesía española de posguerra* (Visor, 1997) and co-editor of *Sexualidad y escritura* (Anthropos, 2002). I have published extensively on contemporary Spanish poetry, women writers and cultural studies. My current research focuses on questions of gender, ageing, and dementia in film, fiction and non-fiction narrative, and poetry, and I am finishing writing my monograph *Cross-cultural Representations of Alzheimer's Disease* (Palgrave 2017). I am co-founder of the research project 'CinemAGender', and member of other international research projects such as 'Genealogías'.



On 6 February 2014, a revolution took place in the American screen (s): the premiere of *Transparent*. This web series was not only presented to be seen mainly on the internet (web TV), but its protagonist is a 70-year-old transgender woman. In fact this web series represents a subversive difference within the American television landscape, *Transparent* gives visibility to transsexuality and shows two transitions that have been invisible until now, that of gender dysphoria (contradiction between their sexual identity and biological sex) and the female transition from adulthood to old age.

Transparent (Trans-parent, note the use of the word play) focuses on the experiences of the Pfefferman family, whose life changes dramatically when Morton (Jeffrey Tambor), the father, confesses to his family that he feels like a woman and wants to undergo a change sex process.

Aging, acceptance, visibility, representation, family roles, traditional family, homosexuality, feminism... everything is questioned and redefined in *Transparent*. The web series, for example, questions the heterosexist and phallogocentric order that reigns in television productions. Therefore, *Transparent* can be considered the turning point in fictional productions by subverting the entire system of values that control both family and society as institutions.

In this paper we analyze the symbolic value of the transgender character as a powerfully subversive figure (Judith Butler) and the depiction of the aging female figure away from the stereotypes normally associated to both aging and women.

Hernando Gómez Prada, Bachelor in Communication Sciences by S. Pablo C.E.U University of Madrid and Master in Advanced Studies on Communication from the University of Murcia. He is an Honorary Research Fellow at the Universidad Complutense of Madrid where he is a PhD candidate. He has authored several articles on the Spanish female director Josefina Molina and has collaborated with academic journals like The Catalan Journal of Communication & Cultural Studies. He is a member of the research group Gender, Aesthetics and Culture Studies (GECA), and has participated at various conferences on gender and communication. In 2015 he published a chapter in the book *Construyendo una Mirada propia: Mujeres directoras en el cine español* (De los orígenes al año 2000). He has been International Guest Lecturer at the University of Leipzig in 2016.

Panel 34

PERSONAL / POLITICAL / in / VISIBILITY

📅 Saturday, April 29 / ⌚ 9:00–10:30 / 🏠 SR KW 21

Chair: *Jack Fletcher*

Participants: *Naomi Woodspring, Clara Overweg, Emmanuelle Tulle, Tarja Tapio*

Naomi Woodspring

The Personal Is Political? On the Invisibility of Older Women

in the first paragraph of her essay, *Fracture*, Oakley wonders in what ways personal narrative can escape 'self-indulgence' and 'what such stories can say about the universal human experience of living in a body' (2007, p iv). Informed by Oakley's consideration and the work of Stanley and Wise, this paper, explores the long held belief that old women are invisible; and the methodology employed in that exploration. There are a number of research questions embedded in this long held belief including: Are old women really invisible? And, in what ways? And to whom? Is invisibility a myth engendered by internalized ageism? Do we actually see each other – each other being other older women seeing older women? These questions, like many feminist research questions come from a seed of personal experience, observations, and/or curiosity. Can the answers, in part, come from personal narrative? Turning Oakley's wondering into a question – what is the role/place of the older researcher in gerontology. Does it create a position of privileged informant, or a biased perspective? Are these two positions mutually exclusive? The reflections in this paper are based, in part, on a study of thirty adults born between 1945 and 1955 – first wave of the postwar generation. In this study, women discussed their ageing bodies. Additionally, my own experiences and observation, as part of that first wave of boomers, feed into this paper. The underlying narrative is that the personal is political. The paper attempts to weave together, qualitative research with experience, observation, and reflections on the personal and political.

Oakley, A., 2007. *Fracture: Adventures of a Broken Body*.
University of Bristol: The Policy Press

Clara Overweg

Clothing Choices by Mid-Life Women in the Creative Industries: An Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis

Naomi Woodspring's curiosity about postwar generation, history, culture, identity, and embodiment led her to pursue a PhD which she completed in 2014. She later published *Baby Boomers, Time, and Ageing Bodies* (Policy Press) based on her doctoral research. She is a Research Fellow, University of the West of England, as part of the Bristol Ageing Better project. Woodspring is interested in the many dimensions of ageing and embodiment. Her current work investigates beauty, pleasure and memory. Prior to returning to university as a late life learner, she had her own consulting firm providing sustainable solutions to organisational and community challenges. She also worked as a psychotherapist in a wide variety of settings from a managing a community prison project to Native American communities.

this research investigates the way in which women in mid-life experience, understand, and give meaning to fashion and clothing. Using Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis and discourse analysis, around five interviews with German women between 48 and 60 will be conducted and evaluated. The women all work with fashion in their profession. Clothing, conceptualized as a performative act, has two implications. Firstly, it is a visible marker of identity and thus creates an interaction between the subject and the social world. Secondly, it necessarily implies an interaction with the body and can thereby provide insights in the embodiment of identity. This research takes age and gender studies as a starting point. Working with hegemonic youth and hegemonic femininity, the validity and implications of both concepts on the participants' life is going to be examined. Nevertheless, clothing cannot be restricted to an expression of one's social identity. Particularly in the case of the interviewees, who, due to their profession, have an interest in fashion as such, clothing can also be seen as an artistic expression. When this meaning is

Emmanuelle Tulle

In Search Of Ageing Women Mountaineers

attached to clothing, it is often placed outside the context of one's own social identity. The two interviews conducted so far suggest that the participants' understanding of clothing is situated at the intersection of those two interpretations, which can be complementing as well as conflicting. The research can hence provide insights in both the experience of hegemonic youth and femininity, and in the forms of artistic expression of clothing in middle-aged women.

Clara Overweg is a Liberal Arts student at University College Maastricht. Within this interdisciplinary study, she concentrates on Cultural Studies and Sociology. The study of identities in relation to gender, sexuality and age is her main focus within this field. She has conducted one undergraduate ethnographic research on feminine non-heterosexual women. She is currently working on her Bachelor thesis with Aagje Swinnen as her supervisor. The thesis is an ethnographic study of women in late mid-life and their experiences with fashion and clothing.

Since its 'invention', mountaineering has been a predominantly male and youthful pursuit. Nevertheless, very early on, a small group of intrepid women have fought to gain a foothold in this activity, overcoming hurdles ranging from clothing restrictions, lack of access to mountain huts and exclusion from mountaineering clubs. There have been notable women mountaineers whose feats have been recorded, largely by men. What is less well known is how these women have aged, how they have coped with their aged physicality, especially at a historical period when norms of aged embodiment as enfeebled and incompetent prevailed. Furthermore, these women's exceptionalism and construction as heroines of sport emphasizes their otherness throughout the life course.

I will present an analysis of the writings by, and about Dorothea Pilley, a Welsh mountaineer, giving particular emphasis to her later years, to explore whether her experiences provide a model for a lifelong engagement with mountains which could defy normative feminine and aged embodiment

and agency. Taking a historical stance, I will focus on 3 themes: 1. Pilley's apprenticeship as a mountaineer, 2. Representations of her achievements, and 3. Diminished physicality. This approach will lead to reflections on the impact of historical forces on feminine embodiment, and their implications for women as they age, in the context of global concerns with sedentary behavior in older women.

Dr. **Emmanuelle Tulle**, Reader in Sociology. I have over 20 years' experience of researching and writing about ageing, in particular ageing and aged embodiment in the social fields of sport and physical activity. I am the author of *Ageing, the Body and Social Change* (Palgrave), *Sport and Physical Activity in Later Life: Critical Perspectives* (co -edited with Cassie Phoenix, Palgrave) and a range of articles.

Tarja Tapio

“Telling their stories” as Knowledge Formation: Social Inclusion and Agency of Older Meänkieli-speaking Women in Rural Tornedalen, North Sweden

The aim of my paper is to explain and illustrate the elements that provide, maintain and reinforce social inclusion and agency of older Tornedalen women in their narratives about everyday life today and in the past. The participants of the research belong to the national minority in Sweden called Tornionlaaksolaiset, still speaking their native mother language, Meänkieli, in their daily basis. There were a group of seven participants of the original research (Tapio 2010; 2016), and this paper particularly focuses on and analyzes the narratives of the three older women.

The original research took place in the small village of Aapua, which has a population of less than 140, and where every third person is over 65 years old. Even though people live far away from public services and facilities, many of the older people who were born in the village and who moved to southern Sweden for work, have returned to the village after retirement. Thus, I argue that living in a home village as part of a local generation provides particular resources especially for older women, based on the social inclusion.

So, I am going to look at the ways knowledge about the social inclusion and agency of older, based on women's own experiences, constructed and represented as a narrative process, is illustrated. Also, the focus is on the elements that older Tornedalen women regard as implementations of social exclusion as members of a local generation living in a remote village. Furthermore, the aim is to elucidate the narrative process of knowledge formation among a group of older women speaking their native minority language.

As such, the paper applies also critical gerontology approach (M. Ray 2007; R.E. Ray 2007, also Bowes and Meehan 1996) carrying out feminist approach, as it aims to provide an opportunity to give voice to underrepresented, marginalized groups of women, whose voice is in danger to be muted by those that represent values of the majority.

Tarja Tapio holds a PhD in sociology and social gerontology (2010). Her general research interest is ageing in remote regions in North Scandinavia and Arctic Regions as Tornedalen and Sápmi. She is interested in ways resources for everyday life and continuity are based on social inclusion and traditional way of life in local generations. Her article about ageing, agency and "Connection with nature" in Tornedalen, North Sweden was published recently by Routledge (2016). Today, the writer works as a lecturer at Saimaa University in Karelia, Finland.

Panel 35

New Vulnerabilities for an Ageing Society in the 21st Century

📅 Saturday, April 29 / ⌚ 9:00–10:30 / 🏠 Conference Hall

Chair: *Paul Kingston*

Participants: *Louise Taylor, Jan Bailey, Charlotte East-Telling*

Consequential to longevity and the demographic changes worldwide, both current and projected, extraordinary opportunities are beginning to surface for satisfying and active healthy ageing. Conversely, those same opportunities can expose vulnerabilities of numerous types: physical, psychological and criminological.

This symposium will focus on the increasing phenomena of financial abuse/crime targeted towards an ageing population. Financial abuse/crime is manifest in multiple forms, and found in the domestic setting, and also in every conceivable mode of informal and formal caring locale. The opportunity to financially steal from, or ‘Scam’ older person, appears also to be potentiated by evidence of social isolation and loneliness amongst certain groups of the ageing population. This symposium brings together expertise from within the Centre for Ageing Studies at the University of Chester, and draws from the wide range of innovative projects undertaken in recent years. The Centre for Ageing Studies in the Faculty of Health and Social Care was established in 2013 to explore the opportunities and challenges arising from an increasingly ageing population, and the health and social care issues this group faces. Our approach aims to challenge the negative perceptions and attitudes bounded by cultural expectations

of ageing in society, and utilises novel tools and methodologies to provide new insights around these areas.

The first presentation describes the intervention and its outcomes, as well as highlighting additional important areas for consideration, such as the legitimisation of scams as a public health issue and the vagaries of scams.

The second presentation draws on Mass Observation data in the UK’s wider context to gather and explore older people’s perceptions and experience of scams.

Presentation three focuses on the area of adult safeguarding that causes most difficulty in prosecution albeit not in discovery. Data from the National Annual Reports on Adult Safeguarding will be explored to describe the forms and architecture to financial abuse of older people, and the successful attempts to stop and intervene when such crimes are committed.

The fourth presentation will discuss the innovative methodology employed in the evaluation of a Lottery funded project aiming to address social isolation in older adults in a UK borough. The presentation will discuss the opportunities and challenges that emerged through the engagement of volunteer co-researchers on this project.

Louise Taylor

Scams Intervention and Health Impacts

In 2014 it was estimated that almost four million people in the UK were scammed, representing an increase of 25% on the previous year. However, the Office for National Statistics figures to June 2014, show that only 209,667 instances of fraud were reported to Action Fraud (the UK's national reporting center for fraud and cyber-crime), suggesting significant under-reporting of incidences.

Consequently, the Trading Standards Institute, Citizens Advice and Action Fraud are working collaboratively to raise awareness with the public of the incidence and type of scams being perpetrated in the UK. However, previous research has shown that being scammed not only has a detrimental effect in monetary terms, but also a potential negative impact on health and well-being. Research evidence regarding the health effects of scams, and in particular the effect on older people is limited, and this is a growing strand of research at the University of Chester.

This presentation will offer new and alternate insights into 'scams' and the health effects of fraud on older people. We will report on an anti-scam initiative delivered by the UK Trading Standards, working with public health, and aimed at reducing scams on older people in a UK borough. This project is the first evaluated intervention delivered by Trading Standards working with public health to understand the potential health aspect of scams.

Offering a sociology of health perspective, we will focus on the health

impact of scams and the legitimisation of the issue as a socio-political problem. We will also highlight additional important areas for consideration, such as the absence of a common understanding of the concept and nomenclature of 'scam', and the 'vagaries of scams' by presenting a typology of scams.

Louise Taylor holds a Professional Doctorate in Education from Keele University and an MSc in Critical care from Hull. She is a senior lecturer and post-graduate tutor in the Faculty of Health and Social Care at The University of Chester. With over 22 years' experience in higher education, she has a considerable expertise in curricula innovation, delivery and evaluation. Louise has led projects exploring the health impact of scams, social isolation and development of an evidence based preceptorship toolkit. Her research interests include education across the life-course and biographic methodology. Louise has authored peer-reviewed papers, presented at national and international conferences, and still supervises Master's degree and PhD students. Louise is deputy chair of the Faculty of Health and Social Care Ethics Committee; she has authored peer-reviewed papers. Presented at national and international conferences, and still supervises Master's degree and PhD students.

Jan Bailey

Scams Mass Observation Data

the Mass Observation Project is a voluntary UK national writing panel, where the 'observers' answer open ended questionnaires, known as Directives. These Directives contain two or three broad themes covering both personal issues and wider political and social issues and events. There are currently around 450 volunteer observers, some of whom have been on the panel for several years, making the Mass Observation archive rich in qualitative longitudinal material. Further panel members remain anonymous, thus responses are often in-depth, yielding valuable, rich, data.

The Centre for Ageing Studies has a developing stream of research around scams and ageing, and in particular, the public health implications of falling victim to a scam. The emerging findings from the background literature, and an ongoing research project within the center exploring a "scam" reduction initiative, led to the commissioning of two new Directives in the Mass Observation Project. While evidence suggests that older people are no more likely to be scammed than other groups, when they do fall victim they lose far more money. However, scams and scammers are becoming more and more sophisticated with new scams emerging regularly and with people of all ages and backgrounds as a potential target. Therefore, we are utilising the Mass Observation archive to explore and develop new insights around scams and older people. The first Directive focuses on dementia,

and the second takes a wider perspective exploring how people identify and deal with scams, as well as the impact on victim's health and well-being. We are presenting our research on the commissioning and analysis of the two Directives.

Jan Bailey is a researcher in the Faculty of Health and Social Care. She has a PhD in Sociology (Social Gerontology) from Keele University, an MSc in Health Psychology, and a Degree in Psychology. During her PhD, Jan worked on the New Dynamics of Ageing project, which took a participatory action research approach, and focused on the role of community action in contributing to a more active form of ageing in disadvantaged neighbourhoods. Since joining the faculty Jan has worked on a range of projects including; Cognitive Stimulation Therapy for people with dementia and carer support, evaluations of the Rapid Assessment Interface and Discharge (RAID) model of liaison psychiatry, and the quantitative arm of a project focused on social isolation. Jan's research interests include active ageing, quality of life of older people, and cross-cultural research. She has authored peer-reviewed papers, presented at conferences, taught research methods and supervised MSc students.

Charlotte Eost-Telling

Adult Safeguarding

Information from the latest national data set on Adult Abuse suggests that physical abuse was the most common type of abuse reported, accounting for 30 per cent of all allegations. This was followed by neglect (23 per cent) and financial abuse (20 per cent). Sixteen per cent of referrals were related to emotional or psychological abuse, followed by sexual (6 per cent), institutional (3 per cent) and discriminatory (1 per cent). However, only recently in the last 5 years, has financial abuse led to criminal prosecution. There are also significant current attempts by professionals to explore the inventive ways in which unscrupulous individuals 'Professional', family and criminal are manipulating both 'finance' and possessions. Current research on the success of interventions strategies to combat financial abuse will be presented.

Charlotte Eost-Telling is a researcher in the Faculty of Health and Social Care. She has a PhD and MSc in Ergonomics from Loughborough University and Degree in Biology / Psychology from the University of Leicester. Since joining the faculty, Charlotte has worked on wide-ranging projects including personal budgets in mental health and substance abuse services, the development of practice learning using high fidelity simulation models, the health impact of scams and the development of an evidence based preceptorship toolkit. Prior to working in academia, Charlotte was a Global Consumer Insight Manager at a large multinational blue chip company. She was responsible for a team of researchers developing novel consumer understanding in global markets, utilising novel and cross-disciplinary techniques. Her research interests include personalisation, user-centered design and research methods, and she is the faculty's statistical advisor. She has authored peer-reviewed papers, and presented at UK and international conferences.

Panel 36

Music

📅 Saturday, April 29 / ⌚ 9:00–10:30 / 🏠 SR B1

Chair: Anja Hardi

Participants: Josephine Dolan, Cheryl Lester, Zdenko Zeman,
Marija Geiger Zeman, Mirela Holy

Josephine Dolan

***Mamma Mia! The Movie:* Life Course Reflections and Heritage Popular Music as Profit Making Machine**

An emerging body of scholarship from the likes of Chivers (2011), Dolan (2012), Gravagne (2015), Swinnen (2015) and Wearing (2007) has firmly placed Anglophone cinematic representations of ageing and the life course on the agendas of both Cultural Gerontology and Ageing Studies. As a body of work, this scholarship follows two interlinked trajectories. First, it establishes that cinematic representations of ageing and the life course are typically organized around a limited and limiting dichotomy: white, 'successful agers' and their pathologised 'others'. Secondly, this research has begun to investigate the ideological work of these representations, for instance in the regulation of gender norms and heteronormative coupling, as well as more specialized ideological operations such as *The Queen's* (Frears 2008) contribution to the recuperation of the British monarchy from republican tendencies. Whilst acknowledging the relevance of the first trajectory to *Mamma Mia! The Movie*, this paper locates itself in the second trajectory and is concerned with *Mamma Mia! The Movie's* (Lloyd 2008) deployment of a life

course narrative and ABBA's heritage popular music in the film industry's profit making machine. The paper explores how the performance of ABBA's songs within a classic musical film structure enables life-course reflections from the characters, and simultaneously, mobilizes a heritage music profit machine that extends from the film through spin off music sales (DVD/CD/Downloads), audience participation events and Greek tourism.

Josephine Dolan is a Research Fellow at UWE/Bristol; a founding member of WAM and an advisor to ENAS and NANAS. She co-edited *Ageing Femininities: Troubling Representations*; has presented evidence on ageing and gender to both the House of Lords and House of Commons; and published numerous articles on film, ageing and gender. Recent publications are (2016) 'The cooking of friendships: Nora Ephron and the life-work of "mediated intimacy"' in *Literary Creativity and the Older Woman Writer: A Collection of Critical Essays*. (Eds.) Casado-Gual, Domínguez-Rué and Worsfold, and (2016) 'Old age' films: golden retirement, dispossession and disturbance' in *The Journal of British Cinema and Television*.

Cheryl Lester

Cultural Alienation and Popular Music in *Young@Heart*

my paper analyzes the contrast between the "cultural alienation" of the older adult choral members of *Young@Heart* to the musical repertoire at the heart of the group's popularity and success. I examine the documentary *Young@Heart* (2007) to demonstrate differences between the musical repertoire's alienating effects on the vocalists and its endearing effects on younger audiences. While the ages of the performers range from 74 to 92, the release dates of the songs they perform range from the 1960s to the present. Defamiliarized by association with the bodies and voices of older adults, the songs acquire new and unforeseen meanings, specifically about aging, that were absent from and unimaginable in the original versions. When 92-year-old Eileen Hall sings "Should I Stay, or Should I Go Now" (1981), a song by The Clash, or 76-year-old Stan Goldman and 83-year-old Dora Morrow sing "I Got You (I Feel Good)," the 1965 classic by James Brown, a younger audience receives startling glimpses of otherwise unimaginable sensibilities of older adults. Belonging to the group, participating in public performances, and being well received brings satisfaction to the vocalists; however, the musical repertoire (and many of the meanings it produces for audiences) remains alien and disorienting. As the documentary illustrates, the cultural alienation of the vocalists from the material they perform is inherent to the group's success, and their warm reception

is tainted by the sentimental condescension that, in Améry's view, is one option for older adults (besides cranky withdrawal) in the face of cultural change.

Cheryl Lester is Associate Professor of English and American Studies at the University of Kansas. She publishes and teaches 20th-century U.S. literature and culture, is a collaborating editor for Digital Yoknapatawpha; co-editor of *Social Work Practice with a Difference* (2003); and co-editor and co-translator of Lacoue-Labarthe & Nancy's *Literary Absolute: The Theory of Literature in German Romanticism* (1988).

Zdenko Zeman, Marija Geiger Zeman, Mirela Holy
**Searching for a Younger Self:
Punk Rock and Ageing Masculin-
ities in the Novel *A Visit from the
Goon Squad* by Jennifer Egan**

In social theory, there is an evident constant of understanding of musical subculture primarily through the lens of youth and expression of youthful rebellion against the dominant values and parental culture. Almost four decades since the appearance of punk as a very important musical and social phenomenon, it is necessary to incorporate the analysis of the topic of aging and old age (Bennet, 2015; Jennings, 2015). The idea of the American sociologist L. A. Coser (1972) that literature matters “for an understanding of society”, socio-cultural facts and phenomena, is convincingly confirmed by Jennifer Egan’s novel *A Visit From the Goon Squad* (2010). It is sociologically, philosophically and from the positions of cultural gerontology, an extremely relevant and inspiring novel. What has happened to the subversive punk rebellion in recent corporate world of music? How have life circumstances changed youthful plans and ideals of a group of punks who lived their own personal punk revolution uncompromisingly in the early 1980s? The contrasts of past and present, youth and aging, old and young generation, suggest that

time is the most important player (although hidden in background) – relentless, invisible, nameless, abstract and silent driving force. It is exactly this emphasized temporal perspective – with a touch of moderate pessimism which leaves the possibility of happier endings – that shows the permanence and unstoppability of changes, not only in the lives of heroes and heroines, but also in ageist world of music industry. Aging as a process leaves multiple traces – physical, social, professional, in the sphere of identity – on experience and (self) perception of the main characters. Fictional life trajectories and identity reconfigurations of Benny, Scotty, Lou, Bosco and Alex show the importance of the theme of the triptych body-gender-aging, which in the context of the music industry takes on a whole new dimension and meaning.

Zdenko Zeman, Ph.D., sociologist and philosopher, works at the Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar in Zagreb. In his professional work he has developed interest in sociological theories of (post)modernization, aging, gender issues, and socio-cultural aspects of sustainability, with the empirical work based on qualitative methodology. **Marija Geiger Zeman**, Ph.D., sociologist, works at the Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar in Zagreb. In her professional work she is interested in gender issues, aging, socio-cultural aspects of sustainability, marginalized populations and qualitative methodology. In 2009 she received National Science Award of the Republic of Croatia in the field of social sciences. **Mirela Holy**, Ph.D., professor at the University VERN' in Zagreb, graduated in ethnology and literature. She has been active in the 'green' movement as an activist and writer, as a Head of the Cabinet and as a Minister of environmental protection. She was a member of the Croatian National Parliament in two mandates. She is also engaged in human rights issues, especially women's rights, and received Human Rights Award 'Miko Tripalo' in 2012.

Panel 37

Artistic Incorporations

📅 Saturday, April 29 / ⌚ 9:00–10:30 / 🏠 SR C1

Chair: Sandra Pfister

Participants: Susanne Martin, Valerie Lipscomb, Julie Silveira

Susanne Martin

Dancing Age(ing) – Strategies for Rethinking Age(ing) in Contemporary Dance

Western theatre dance has often focused on youthful physicality and, as such, took part in an unquestioned marginalization of older bodies. However, dance, and specifically contemporary dance, is also a site for inventing new ways of experiencing and presenting human bodies in movement. As such, dance also has the potential to question and dismantle stereotypical representations of age(ing) that are not only a part of dance but also of our everyday culture. I argue that improvisation-based approaches to practicing dance alongside the creation of critical images and new imaginations of age(ing) on stage, allow dance to evolve as an 'age critical' arts practice. By discussing the performance outcomes of my PhD project *Dancing Age(ing)* (The Fountain of Youth, 2013, and The Fountain of Age, 2015), I argue for ways in which dance artists can articulate multiple and ambiguous meanings and disjunctive narratives of age(ing) that strengthen a critical position towards dominant stereotypical representations of age(ing). *Dancing Age(ing)* is situated at the intersection of dance studies and aging studies. As a recently completed PhD research with a Practice as Research approach, it takes part in the current European discourse on new research methods in the arts and the position of artists in the academia. It should also be understood as a contribution to the methodological discourse in

aging studies, for it is an embodied artistic research/practice, which aims at thinking, practicing and performing aging differently.

Susanne Martin (PhD) is a Berlin based performer, researcher, and teacher in the field of contemporary dance. She focuses on improvisation, contact improvisation, narrations of the aging body, and practice as research / artistic research. Her thesis *Dancing Age(ing): Rethinking Age(ing) in and through Improvisation Practice and Performance* was published in 2017 by Transcript.

Valerie Barnes Lipscomb

The Weight of Dramatic Heritage and “Desire Under the Elms”



Desire Under the Elms, considered to be Eugene O'Neill's first masterpiece, is a re-imagination of Greek tragedy, in which 76-year-old Ephraim Cabot brings home a 35-year-old wife, Abbie, who commits adultery with Ephraim's 25-year-old son Eben.

Abbie gives birth to a son, whom Ephraim claims as heir, but all other characters assume that Eben fathered the child. Ephraim's characterization thus draws on the “senex” traditions of Greek and Roman comedy, both the foolish old man who courts a young woman and the father who blocks his offspring from a desired marriage. The townspeople ridicule Ephraim as blind to the truth. However, I argue that the stock characters that are so entrenched in cultural and dramatic analysis blind us to how illogical it is to assume Ephraim's age-related sterility despite evidence of his continued virility. Ephraim and Abbie consummated their union; the child may indeed be his. Moreover, the stage directions emphasize Ephraim's strength, especially when he handily wins a fight with Eben, fifty years his junior. This paper will address the play not only in text but also in performance (the 2009 U.S. production starring Brian Dennehy), and the 1958 film adaptation (starring Burl Ives). In “Staging Ageing,” Michael Mangan notes the difficulty of fighting against stereotypes in the theatre, which is a medium built on a foundation of stereotypes (23). The embodied performance of

Ephraim Cabot strikes a blow against ageist attitudes, but 2000 years of dramatic heritage may negate that impact, which illustrates the continuing challenge to situate the unique contribution of theatre to age studies.

Valerie Barnes Lipscomb is Associate Professor of English at the University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee. Her monograph, *Performing Age in Modern Drama*, was published in 2016 by Palgrave Macmillan. Lipscomb's work also has appeared in "Modern Drama," "Comparative Drama," "International Journal of Ageing and Later Life," and "Age, Culture, Humanities." She is vice chair of the North American Network in Aging Studies and an executive committee member for the MLA Age Studies Forum.

Julie Silveira

Reframing the Picture: The Representation of Age and Gender Identities in Feminist Art

Western visual culture is "saturated" with ageist representations of female bodies (Woodward 2006). In this context, feminist art can be described as a space of "resignification" (Butler 1990) for the aging female body. To develop what Kampmann (2015) describes as "visual aging studies," scholars have sought to highlight the importance of studying age in art and visual culture (Featherstone and Wernick 1995). In this vein, feminist visual studies have sought to address questions around the visibility and invisibility of aging women in art (Meagher 2014). The issue of temporality and the aging body has also been investigated (Cristofovici 2009). However, little is known about the relationship between gender identity and aging narratives in feminist art. How do artists use photography to recreate their own autobiography? How do their artistic practices reinterpret gender script and criticize past narratives about age?

Adopting a feminist perspective on visual sociology and age studies, I will draw attention to four contemporary artists who have worked with archive pictures, re-performed their work and the work of others, and created new material, all relating aging narratives to gender identity and embodiment. These artists criticize their own normative narratives about gender and ageing by encompassing "gender failure" (Halberstam

2011) and “dis-identification” strategies (de Lauretis 1990). Reflecting on Margaret Gullette’s notion of “age autobiography” (1997), this paper will focus on critical narratives of cultural aging, and will explore how some artists express, what Kathleen Woodward refers to as “feminist aging” (2006).

Julie Silveira is a third year PhD student in Sociology at Université du Québec à Montréal (Canada). Her thesis examines the self-representation of aging feminist and queer visual artists. She uses a feminist approach to study the cultural representations of aging, body politics, gendered identity and visual narratives. Julie was awarded a three years research scholarship from the Fonds de recherche Société et Culture. She is also currently working as a teaching assistant in Feminist Studies.

Panel 38

Aging Women in Television Fiction

📅 Saturday, April 29 / ⌚ 9:00–10:30 / 🏠 SR C2

Chair: Line Nybro Petersen

Participants: Amanda Ciafone, Anne Jerslev, Line Nybro Petersen

In recent years a number of television serials from *Mozart in the Jungle* (2014–) to *Grace and Frankie* (2015–) and others, offers representations of older women that are career professionals, independent, and sexually active in central, if not leading, roles. In this panel, we consider these contemporary representations alongside historical tendencies. Specifically, this panel analyses two periods that may be understood as shifts in representations of elderly women in American fictional TV narratives: television serials in the 1980s and contemporary drama. The panel analyses issues of age appropriateness, sexual agency, and the aging body in regards to the representations of aging and older women in past and current narratives.

The first presentation captures historical changes, in particular the movement of the Gray Panthers and their aim to influence representations of older women in the media. The two latter presentations turn their attention to representations of women in contemporary television fiction with an emphasis, respectively, on age appropriateness for the aging career woman and sexuality and the aging female body. The three presentations combine feminist theory with media studies and cultural gerontology to discuss these issues.

Amanda Ciafone

Panthers and Cougars: Gray Women Take on TV in the 1980s

This paper will exam the confluence of two remarkable moments in the history of the representation of older women in the media in a decade otherwise known for its social and cultural conservatism. In the 1980s, armed with the concept of “ageism,” coined in just 1969, and copies of Simone de Beauvoir’s recently translated (if lesser known) feminist treatise, *The Coming of Age*, the women of the Gray Panthers set out to intervene in the representation of older women in the media in the United States. Mobilizing through their Media Watch Committee, they monitored TV for examples of ageism, conducted media literacy campaigns, and produced conferences and even their own media content to combat stereotypes and construct an alternative vision of aging, especially one with sexual agency. Not unrelated, women of the same generation appeared on TV with more agency – namely in *The Golden Girls*, 227 and *Murder She Wrote* – leading the LA Times to ponder whether there was a representational shift on TV, even a “waning devotion to youth.” But as an Annenberg study of the time suggested, this drop in the bucket “does not make a ripple” when you consider that the representation of people over 65 was only around one-fifth their actual proportion in the US population, and were “treated disrespectfully most of the time.” These TV exceptions proved the rule, then, and make the gray women of the 1980s and their media interventions all the more important to study.

Amanda Ciafone is an Assistant Professor of Media & Cinema Studies and a member of the Institute of Communications Research at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She is embarking on new research examining the impact of media and technology in the conception of aging in the last fifty years in the US, through an analysis of archival sources, media texts, and technologies themselves.

Anne Jerslev

Agelessness As the New Age Appropriateness? – Representations of the Elderly Woman in Three Newer TV Series

Taking as my examples representations of aging female CEOs in three contemporary television series, this paper wishes to scrutinize the idea of age appropriateness in relation to elderly women. I want to ask the question whether agelessness may be regarded as a new age appropriateness and, moreover, to what extent this understanding of age appropriateness should be regarded as a new way of making space for elderly women in popular culture or, rather be understood as an updated, postfeminist version of ageism – in the sense of postfeminism, Rosalind Gill and Christina Scharf are outlining in *New Femininities*.

Julia Twigg talks in *Fashion and Age* about the idea of “an acceptable form of [elderly] woman”: “still feminine, still displaying engagement with the disciplinary practices of femininity, yet in a toned-down way that accepts the lesser claims to attention and regard” (Twigg, 2013: 18). However, looking at 78 years old Jane Fonda playing CEO Leona Lansing in HBOs *The Newsroom* (2012–2014), 68 years old Bernadette Peters as Gloria, president of the New York Symphony Orchestra in *Mozart in the Jungle*

Line Nybro Petersen

Trans-forming the Aging Body in *Grace and Frankie* and *Transparent*

(2014–) and 64 years old Christine Baranski as Diane Lockhart, named partner in a large Chicago law firm in CBS's *The Good Wife* (2009–2016), this prompts the question whether such a characteristic still holds? Moreover, this paper aims to analyse whether a different understanding of age appropriateness is merely another way of constructing elderly women under “the youthful structure of the look”.

Anne Jerslev is a Professor of film and media studies at the Department of Media, Cognition and Communication. She has published widely within film and media studies and is right now working on a project about popular representations of elderly women.

This paper analyses representations of the aging body in two contemporary series: Netflix's *Grace and Frankie* (starring Jane Fonda and Lily Tomlin) and Amazon's *Transparent* (starring Jeffrey Tambor). Both series deal with dramatic changes in life circumstance in later life: In *Grace and Frankie*, the two female lead characters are left by their husbands (played by Sam Waterston and Martin Sheen) when they come out as homosexuals and long-time romantic partners, and in *Transparent* Tambor's character come out as transgender and begins transitioning to become the woman, she always felt she was. The two serials tackle issues of sexuality and gender in aging bodies in different ways, both in terms of narrative strategies and the serials aesthetics and I am interested in the ways in which the serials apply appropriation and subversion to these representations.

The paper offers a comparative textual analysis of the two shows and combines mediatization theory (Hjarvard 2013, Hepp 2012) with cultural gerontology (Gilleard and Higgs 2000) and feminist theory (Butler 1993)

in order to understand the representations of the aging body in these serials. Furthermore, the paper places these representations in a broader sociocultural context and in relation to feminist theory in order to discuss how the ageing body as a narrative device in audiovisual fiction may reflect social norms and tendencies of subversion and appropriation of gendered aging bodies.

Line Nybro Petersen is an Assistant Professor in Media Studies at University of Southern Denmark. She currently works on a research project on television for and about elderly and her project includes a production study of television programmes targeted at an elderly audience and textual analysis of representations of elderly women in television programmes.

Panel 39

New Representations of Aging in Literary and Film Narratives from Brazil

📅 Saturday, April 29 / ⌚ 13:30–15:00 / 🏠 SR KW 12

Chair: *Peggy Sharpe*

Participants: *Susanna Fuentes, Lúcia Bettencourt, Eunice Gutman,
Peggy Sharpe*

The study of human aging in the arts and humanities generates meaningful alternatives to the culturally bound perceptions that have dominated the western world for centuries. The preservation of memory throughout the life journey, in conjunction with the hope for a more dignified future, has taken hold of the Brazilian creative imagination. Writers and filmmakers are generating narratives in response to questions surrounding the passage of time that has the ability to fragment, imprison, or liberate the self. These contemporary works also address the need to disentangle gendered perceptions of aging, and reconsider the meaning of affection vis-à-vis the current obsolescence of cities. Fiction and film, essay and poetry reinforce the need for different generations to come together and subvert conventional barriers that have impaired the self, and in doing so, construct more innovative pathways.

This panel brings together a contemporary Brazilian film director, Eunice Gutman, and two Brazilian writers, Lúcia Bettencourt and Susanna Fuentes, all based in Rio de Janeiro, to comment on the ways in which their

work responds to the aforementioned issues. Along with the observations of the US-based researcher Peggy Sharpe, who examines a recent film concerning the construction of cultural memory, the papers in this panel investigate aspects of autonomy in the aging process. They acknowledge the benefits of change as opposed to the cultural pattern of slowing down the marks of time, a phenomenon that eventually leads to erasure of memory and profound anguish as regards personal and local identity. Seeking to establish a framework for changing the world as it has been presented to us, deconstructing fixed patterns in our movement from the margins to the center, we consider time, space, and experience in a post-modern world driven by the urgency of the present and the immediacy of satisfaction, where history is erased, wrinkles are smoothed out, and simulacrum — inexpressive masks — proliferate.

In response to this reality, we propose the need for a certain lyricism combined with a touch of romanticism of ideas to combat the tendency towards “nothing and our condition.” Thus, the panel also explores the ways

in which contemporary literary and film narratives convey images of the self in its encounter with mirrors, friends from mixed generations, dance, art, street corners, and a myriad of other crossings that make up the flow of daily living, so as to contemplate how these images contribute to a new understanding of the changes in our lives. In summary, the concern is with presenting a methodology aimed at raising new questions in order to contaminate traditional cultural narratives and construct a fresh heritage to (in)form our future.

Susanna Fuentes

“Ruas de Papel” (Paper Streets) and “Um conto de Carnaval” (A Carnaval Story) – A Poem and a Short Story about the Art of Going into the Streets

In a poem, a female character with gray hair enters a bus whose jerkiness doesn't take her by surprise. In a short story, a woman tired of growing old alone at home goes into the streets dressed in colorful clothing. Within the space of the different landscapes of the city, at home and in the street, how do these characters move about in their encounter with others? The city looks at them but does it see them?

Due to their invisibility, or perhaps their extravagance, at a certain moment they risk looking at themselves and, in listening to their bodies, a space opens up that allows them to move about freely. Age as a fluid, rather than fixed identities, that continue to widen and expand.

Susana Fuentes' novel *Luzia* (2011) was selected as a finalist for the Prêmio São Paulo de Literatura in 2012. A winner of the Rio, a City of Readers Award, from Rio de Janeiro's Townhouse and Education Secretary (2010), she also published the acclaimed short story collection *Escola de Gigantes* (School of Giants) in 2005. One of these stories, "Sumaúma e Reco-reco", was rendered into English as "Tiger and the Silk Cotton Tree" by the renowned translator Alison Entrekin for publication in the British literary magazine *Wasafiri* (2015). Fuentes also wrote and performed the play *Prelude to Memories*, and a *Broken Love Song*, which was selected for The New York International Fringe Festival in 2012. She earned the Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from the State University of Rio de Janeiro, where she also carried out post-doctoral research with funding from FAPERJ, one of the leading research institutes in Rio de Janeiro.

Lúcia Bettencourt

"An Immodest Proposal"

An aging woman and a chaotic city, both facing the degradation of time, are the characters of a short story that meanders between the passages of the fiction and the paper that comments on it. The author of both the story and this essay attempts to shed light on a theme that concerns not only individuals but also industries and public administration: the aging of the world population and its abode. The aging female character in the story feels trapped in a world made of glass where her image is frozen, not as that of a human being in History but as a "mannequin," a display of attainable technological everlasting youthfulness. The city is forced to abandon the ancient dwellings in order to open up new public spaces, parks, and boulevards. At the same time, the traditional popular meeting places suffer from a lack of administrative attention, and the city streets become increasingly jammed, compromising the daily commute of the working class.

This commentary and the story to which it refers consider the possibility and benefits of "erasure." What does one obtain when the signs of the past are concealed? What lurks beneath the modernization of faces and cities? In an effort to understand the true meaning of a future where decline and decay have been abolished, my paper (immodest, because it deals with a story written by the author of this essay) recalls the perverse logic of a utilitarian society (Swift), which can easily destroy the future when it attempts to correct the past.

Lúcia Bettencourt studied literature at Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro and Yale University, and earned the Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from Universidade Federal Fluminense. One of the most innovative and dynamic contemporary writers in Brazil today, her work includes the novel *A secretária de Borges* (Borges' Secretary) which won the prestigious SESC Prize for Literature (2006), two collections of short stories *Linha de sombra* (Shadow Line) and *O amor acontece* (Love Happens), and the recent novel *O Regresso, A última viagem de Rimbaud* (The Return: Rimbaud's last voyage). Her creative work has appeared in English translation in a variety of literary magazines, including *Words Without Borders*, *the Dirty Goat*, *Drawbridge*, *Review: Literature and Arts of the Americas*, and *Brasil/Brazil*. The most recent of her numerous scholarly articles include the essays "O banquete: uma degustação de imagens e de textos", and "Erratas pensantes: aproximações entre Proust e Machado de Assis."

Eunice Gutman

***Nunca é tarde* (It's Never Too Late): The Art of Aging Actively – A Film by Eunice Gutman**

N

unca é tarde (It's Never Too Late) is a documentary film about women, liberty, and the aging process. Spurred on by my long-standing concern with women's issues in general and, more specifically, by my reading of Simone de Beauvoir's work from the 1970s, and in particular the writer's observation that it is time to end the conspiracy of silence surrounding the subject of aging in her book *Old Age*, I interviewed my mother in 1987 when she was 81 years old. Parts of that interview appear in the film, which celebrates the performance of those who continue to pursue their desires with the objective of going beyond what they had envisioned for their life journey. The film also examines the photography, theatrical set, and execution of the 2013 production in Rio de Janeiro of *Ferida Sábica* (Wise Wound), choreographed by the ballerina Ana Vitória with a performance by the master Angel Vianna. It offers a reflection on women of different generations, the female body, and the memory of the body in its different stages, and the aging of women as an impetus towards freedom, like an encounter with friends, as Mirian Goldenberg, author of *A Bela Velhice* (Beautiful Old Age), observed in her book. In sum, aging, not as an end imposed upon us from outside, but as a process with possibilities of new answers and continuous interest in the paths of life.

The filmmaker **Eunice Gutman** began her professional career in Belgium, where she studied at INSAS. After returning to Brazil in the early 1970s, she edited films and directed her first documentary *E o Mundo era Muito Maior que a Minha Casa* (And The World Was Much Bigger Than My House) in 1976. The title of this film refers to the observations of a 77 year old woman who is learning to read. Among Gutman's films, many of which have won domestic and international awards, are *Amores de Rua* (Street Lovers, 1993), a film about prostitution, and *A Rocinha tem Histórias*, (Rocinha's Stories, 1985), which examines childhood in Brazil's shantytowns.

Peggy Sharpe

Narration, Representation, and Cultural Memory in Lúcia Murat's "A Memória que me contam"

The acclaimed Brazilian screenwriter, director, and producer Lúcia Murat has experimented with cultural memory throughout her cinematic career to construct a multilayered discourse on history, social injustice, and political change. This paper examines how the passage of time and the fluidity of identity impact memory, the formation of myth, and the construction of cultural memory in the director's stunning memoir of the life of Vera Sílvia Araujo de Magalhães, the young guerrilla who joined the armed struggle against the military dictatorship during the 1960s. Through the use of individual and collective memories and innovative narrative techniques, Murat creates a cultural narrative that celebrates the life force and legacy of her close friend and former comrade, examines the complex interplay between past and present, raises questions concerning the continuity and contradiction in inter-generational dialogue, and weighs in on the importance of accountability in the present political, social, and artistic arena.

Peggy Sharpe is Professor of Portuguese and Brazilian Studies at Florida State University. Her research focuses on the emergence of women writers, thinkers and film directors in Brazil and throughout the Portuguese-speaking world. Her publications include books, critical editions, essays, and translations of the work of Brazilian women writers, including the edited volume *Entre resistir e identificar-se: Para uma teoria da prática da narrativa brasileira de autoria feminina*, the translation of Rosiska Darcy de Oliveira's essay *In Praise of Difference: The Emergence of a Global Feminism*, and a study of the 19th century Portuguese novelist Eça de Queirós, *Espelho na rua: A cidade na ficção de Eça de Queirós*. A former Fulbright scholar and visiting professor in Brazil, she has held leadership positions at two universities in the Arabian Gulf, where she developed an interest in the rapidly changing roles of women in the Middle East.

Panel 40

Dementia I

📅 Saturday, April 29 / ⌚ 13:30–15:00 / 🏠 SR KW 21

Chair: Marilyn Lim

Participants: Sinikka Vakimo, Carly McAskill, Pia Kontos,
Alisa Grigorovich, Sherry L. Dupuis, Gail J. Mitchell,
Christine Jonas-Simpson, Julia Gray

Sinikka Vakimo

Exploring Conceptions of Old Age and Dementia in Finnish Culture

The aim of my study is to figure out the main aspects of vernacular historical thoughts and meanings connected with dementia and old age in Finland. These ideas are seen as slowly changing ‘longue-durée’ cultural thinking structures that guide the more rapidly transforming, contextually determined cultural conceptions, which are represented in narratives and other cultural materials. In order to outline these conceptions from historical perspective, I will read various folklore and folk narrative materials dating chiefly back to the first half of 2000th century. The aim is to explore how the changing, and often blurring distinctions between normal and abnormal, senility and old age were constructed in relation to age, gender, class, and other identity features in different narrative, or representation context in Finnish folk culture. The framework of the study is based on theoretical discussion about cultural representations, folk narratives, intersectionality, and strategies of inclusion and rejection and agency.

Because the research is still in its initial stage, I will pick up only one single narrative in my presentation, and (close) read it from the perspective of old age, gender and agency. The research belongs to larger research project *Between the Normal and the Abnormal – The Cultural Meanings of Dementia and Aging in Finnish and Russian Culture* (2016–2019), funded by Kone Foundation.

Sinikka Vakimo is Docent (Adjunct Professor) and University Lecturer of Folklore Studies at the School of Humanities, at the University of Eastern Finland. Her doctoral dissertation (2001) addressed cultural conceptions of old women and their life practices (in Finland). After that she has dealt with various topics inside of cultural gerontology, and her expertise includes research on gender, age, locality, cultural representations, folk narratives, humor and research ethics.

Carly McAskill

Who Am I? Who Are You? Who Are We?

For the Cultural Narratives, Processes and Strategies in Representations of Age and Aging paper presentation, I would like to present my intended PhD project, 'Who Am I? Who Are You? Who Are We?' I will discuss how I will use my art and research background in memory, identity, storytelling, collage, and drawing, to lay the foundation for the project in order to make deeper connections to women, mothers, daughters and dementia. It stems from my current relationship with a woman in my motherline: my grandmother who has dementia. The term 'motherline' is used to refer to the shared experience when women get together to tell one another stories about female experience: physical, psychological, and historical. For my proposed doctoral project, I seek to work with twelve senior women with dementia and their daughters, in a research-creation project that promotes the shared experience of the motherline where women with dementia can build on their individual strengths, art, and intergenerational learning with their daughters, by looking at what their relationships are to themselves, to one another and to others. Additionally, the relationship to their environment, culture, immediate family and friends will be looked at. Memory and narrative inquiry are central to the project because women with dementia and their daughters have something important to say, have stories and want to tell them.

Carly McAskill is a Canadian artist, researcher, teacher and writer. She is interested in research-creation, art education, arts-based methodologies, intergenerational pedagogies, narrative inquiry, memory studies, mother-line research, feminist pedagogy and disability and age. Carly's academic background includes a Bachelor of Education in the Intermediate/Senior Division with Visual Arts and Religion teachable from Nipissing University (2014–2015), Master of Fine Arts from York University (2011–2013), Bachelor of Fine Arts in Drawing and Painting from Ontario College of Art and Design University (2008–2011) and Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies from McMaster University (2004–2008). Currently, Carly is completing her Doctor of Philosophy in Communication Studies at Concordia University. She is the recipient of the Ageing, Communication and Technology (ACT) Doctoral Fellowship; ACT Scholarship for Graz International Summer School Seggau 2016 as well as the Faculty of Arts and Science Graduate Fellowship in Ethnic Studies and Social Diversity.

**Pia Kontos, Alisa Grigorovich, Sherry L. Dupuis,
Gail J. Mitchell, Christine Jonas-Simpson, Julia Gray**

Raising the Curtain on Dementia Stigma: Fostering a New Cultural Imaginary for a More Inclusive Society

We are an interdisciplinary group of health and artist-researchers concerned about the ways that persons living with dementia are viewed as dysfunctional, socially excluded, deprived of their dignity, and with diminished quality of life. Following Indigenous scholar and storyteller Thomas King, we recognize that “the truth about stories is that that’s all that we are.” Stories not only teach us individually and collectively who we are and help us imagine who we might become, but they also have the power to connect us and disconnect us, justifying othering and violence. Stories build upon previous stories with the potential to root (or chain) us to particular assumptions and ways of being, but can also help us expand and see differently. A powerful example of this is the ways the tragedy narrative of dementia is dominant and culturally produced through media and artistic representations. This tragedy narrative infiltrates social assumptions about dementia and significantly shapes policy and organizational practices that guide the care of individuals living with dementia. Cracked: new light on de-

mentia, a research-informed play, was developed to open up a playful, critical space to expose and dismantle these conceptions of dementia, unjust care practices, and policies, and to facilitate envisioning and inspiring an alternative care culture. In this paper, we draw on examples from *Cracked* to explore the ways we invite audience members to “think with stories”, and to grapple with complexity and imagine new possibilities.

Dr. **Pia Kontos** is a Senior Scientist at Toronto Rehabilitation Institute-University Health Network and Associate Professor in the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto. Central to her program of research is reducing societal misconceptions and stereotypes around dementia, and promoting inclusive and meaningful engagement of persons living with dementia. She produces research-based dramas and films to trigger personal and social change, and draws on the arts (music, dance, improvisational play) to engage people living with dementia, reduce social isolation, and enhance quality of life. Dr. **Alisa Grigorovich** is a postdoctoral fellow in the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto. Her expertise is in critical qualitative research, sexual ethics, and relational approaches in long-term dementia care. Dr. **Sherry L. Dupuis** is a Professor in the Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies, University of Waterloo. Her expertise is in critical participatory action research, culture

change, relational theory, critical disability studies, and creative and participatory knowledge translation strategies based on critical pedagogy. Dr. **Gail J. Mitchell** is a Professor in the School of Nursing at York University with extensive experience in nursing practice as a clinical nurse specialist in gerontology, qualitative dementia research, and specialization in research-based drama, stigma, media representations of dementia, and in the advancement of relational practice. Dr. **Christine Jonas-Simpson** is an Associate Professor in the School of Nursing at York University, Director and Chair of the York-UHN Nursing Academy at the Toronto General Hospital, and Director of the Dotsa Bitove Wellness Academy for persons with dementia. She brings extensive experience and expertise in nursing, working with persons with dementia and their families, qualitative arts-based methodologies, and relational practice. Dr. **Julia Gray** is a post-doctoral fellow at Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital and Artistic Director of Possible Arts. Her expertise is in research-based drama, critical qualitative health research, and arts-based knowledge translation with a particular focus in community engagement through the arts and exploration of artistic processes in applied settings.

Panel 41

On and On (and On): Music, Memory, and the Performance of Age

📅 Saturday, April 29 / ⌚ 13:30–15:00 / 🏠 Conference Hall

Chair: Stephen Katz

Participants: Line Grenier, Kim Sawchuk, Fannie Valois-Nadeau,
Helmi Järviuoma, Stephen Katz, Ros Jennings

this symposium is about the sensory, temporal and cultural intersections between music, age, memory, identity, and performance. In particular, popular, local, experimental and community musical forms are examined as rich opportunities to explore everyday meaning-making across the aging process. The four symposium papers are framed by critical ethnographic, narrative and reflexive methodologies. The presenters also find common ground in the originality of their research and contributions to understanding how the subjective dimension of aging is musically materialized even within commercialized musical enterprises. Overall, the symposium aims to advance the presence of music research within age and gerontological studies.

In the first paper, Line Grenier, Kim Sawchuk, and Fannie Valois-Nadeau provide a fascinating ethnographic account of the Étoile des aînés, an annual 'music talent' contest for people aged 65 and over organized in Québec by Chartwell (Retirement Residences). Their research proposes a relational model of ageing linked by the particular 'music-ing' that draws together the enactments of 'old' songs and their embedding of memory. In their terms, therefore, we 'age together' with the things, places, practices, and technologies by which our temporal trajectories, both back through the past and ahead to the future, are actualized and imagined into existence.

In the second paper, Helmi Järviuoma focuses on the social memory of an aging Pakistani immigrant in Finland as an active process of sense-making in the course of time that bridges individual, generational, social and political contexts. Originally part of the author's involvement in the Becoming Audible project, here, the Pakistani households which Prof Järviuoma researches are creative sources of insight into musical remembering, media-usage, gender and age roles, and the inter-cultural dynamics of fragmented memory.

In the third paper, Stephen Katz looks at the technologies, performances, materializations, industries and memories by which rock and roll music, driven by an ageless spirit of youthful rebellion and nonconformity, continues to define boomer subjective experiences and biographical narratives.

Using his own background as a middle-aged boomer, rock fan and musician (drummer) who grew up in the generational and musical cultures of the 1960s, Prof Katz considers the importance of fantasy in merging past and present virtual memories in an ageist society. His experiences in an amateur rock music club form the basis for an auto-ethnographic inquiry.

Finally, in her paper Ros Jennings examines popular music's role as a memory object that is archived in multiple ways individually and collectively, such that certain popular music tracks are remembered in the present but also archived and evaluated along the life-course. Her research utilizes the concept of the 'Soundtrack of my life', a feature in the British newspaper, *The Guardian* and interrogates relationships between music, memory, age and identity through a qualitative study of two friendship groups aged between 53 and 87 years of age. As with all the presenters in this symposium, Prof Jennings concludes that we should transcend the tendency to produce binary 'before' and 'after' accounts of identity that reduce age to either young or old, and instead use musical life to demonstrate the continuum of experience.

Line Grenier, Kim Sawchuk, Fannie Valois-Nadeau
**Ageing With/Together: Producing
'Old' Songs as Memory Acts at
Étoile des Aînés**

Stephen Katz remarks that 'our ideas, metaphors, and meanings of ageing are materially inscribed' (2009). Looking for traces of ageing in his home environment, Katz turns to material objects such as an African drum, the outer skin worn by years of playing, as examples. Paying attention to temporal conditions, he suggests opening up the possibility of a different understanding of the processes of ageing – an "ageing together." In this paper we expand upon these remarks to advance concepts of 'togetherness' as well as other co-present forms 'with' and 'beside' to explore a relational understanding of ageing informed by everyday life practices and technologies, as well as by objects therein (Grenier, 2013). Ageing together/with is also integral to a relational understanding of memory as an embedded and situated articulation in the present of co-existing pasts and futures with, and through peoples and things (Valois-Nadeau, 2014), including musical things. Here aging together is explored in the context of Étoile des aînés, an annual "music talent" contest for people aged 65 and over, organized in Québec by Chartwell, a most important investor in the North American senior housing market. Drawing on a multi-sited and collaborative ethnography project, we describe the process of ageing with music at this event, and the distinct materialities and temporalities that this particular "music-ing" (Small 1999) for, and by seniors entails. We argue that the ageing together/with through music is largely mediated by

the re-enactments of 'old' songs recordings and/or embodied interpretations that already have complex social lives and temporal trajectories. As they produce new sound-souvenirs (Bijsterveld and van Dijk, 2009) and unauthorized musical heritage (Roberts and Cohen, 2013), these re-enactments of 'old' songs function as complex acts of memory that link Étoile des aînés to the present-past and imagined futures of the participants.

Line Grenier is an Associate Professor, Département de communication, Université de Montréal (Canada), and executive member/co-applicant for the Canadian SSHRC funded Ageing, Communication and Technologies program (ACT). Recent publications focus on cultures of ageing, intersections of ageing and music 'in public', and critiques of public discourses on 'active' and 'successful' ageing. Kim Sawchuk is a Professor, Department of Communication Studies, Concordia University Research Chair in Mobile Media Studies, Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Studies and Principal Investigator of the Aging, Communication and Technologies team (ACT), Concordia University, Montréal (Canada). Her research and publications are on age, ageing and their cultural impact since 1996, including a project on 'seniors and cell phones' and research-creation work in Critical Disability Studies.

Fannie Valois-Nadeau is a postdoctoral fellow at Concordia University, Montréal (Canada) and member of the Canadian SSHRC funded Ageing, Communication and Technologies program (ACT). Her postdoctoral research explores the articulations between the culture of philanthropy, sport industry and ageing players within the Montréal Canadiens hockey club. Her work engages a critical reflection about the cultural mediations of ageing and memory as situated in cultural studies, memory studies, ageing studies and sport studies.

Helmi Järviluoma

Aspects of Memory, 'Dis-placement', and Aging: A Case Study in Musical Remembering

Fourteen years ago the author became deeply involved in a participatory action research project known as Becoming Audible, involving asylum seekers in Finland, during which time 'Rubina', initially an asylum seeker from Pakistan, received permission to stay in Finland. Rubina's daughter's house in the Åland Islands and son's apartment in Stockholm, are central locations for studying her musical remembering and its connections to time, age, place, and the community. Their constant usage of the internet connection to Pakistan plays a role in the life of the family, helping them to construct a firm media bridge to Asia, thus raising the first research question concerning the role played by media memory across generations. A second question is concerned with whether the experience of several generations sharing the same accommodation initially misled the ethnographer. The media connection with Pakistan does not mean the same for each member of the family, and is also different for each at different stages in their lives. The author analyzes the ways in

which the national order of things seems to be 'thinking inside her' (Malkki 1992), as well as inside all of us. As the interviews unfolded, the intersections of gender, age, and time spent in the Nordic countries were prominent among the moving and shifting aspects of the experience. Hence, it is hoped that the case study will grasp at least something of the dynamism and transience of our media-soaked modern culture; lived time and forgetfulness, the clashes between different age groups, and the ever-fragmenting politics of memory (cf. Huyssen 2003, van Dijk 2007). In addition, the author will endeavor to use the theoretical and methodological tools developed during her work on her project Sonic Memories and Emplaced Pasts in European Villages.

Helmi Järviluoma is a Professor of Cultural Studies, University of Eastern Finland (Joensuu), Principal Investigator of ERC Advanced Grant 'Sensory Transformations' 2016–2020, and co-applicant for the Canadian SSHRC funded Ageing, Communication and Technologies program (ACT). Trained as a music researcher, Prof Järviluoma has published over 170 articles, books, and edited collections with the focus on soundscape studies, and has authored, directed, and/or translated six radio features and a collection of short stories.

Stephen Katz

The Greatest Band That Never Was: Rock Music, Virtual Memory and Boomer Biographies

The paper examines the various technologies, performances, materializations and memories by which rock and roll, driven by an ageless spirit of youthful rebellion and nonconformity, continues to define middle-aged baby-boomer subjective experiences and biographical narratives. The central argument is that postwar rock and roll generations are united around a timeless and ageless narrative that has been carried forward as such generations have aged, expressing the contradictions between aging and agelessness as part of the music industry itself. Since the 1950s, rock music's evolution as a dominant cultural form has animated every facet of postwar identity, style, technology, and sociability in local and global ways. For boomers in particular, the intensity of emotion, time, money, fantasy, and identity invested in rock music, has only become strengthened in later life. The discussion summarizes the reproduction of classic rock music, its intergenerational bonds, and the importance of fantasy, performance and virtual memory in sustaining boomer identities. The concluding section is an auto-ethnographic section of the author's participation in an amateur rock club.

Stephen Katz is Professor of Sociology, Trent University, Peterborough (Canada), co-applicant for the Canadian SSHRC funded Ageing, Communication and Technologies program (ACT), recipient of Trent Distinguished Research Award and author of *Disciplining Old Age* (1996), *Cultural Aging* (2005) and publications on ageing bodies, critical gerontology, biopolitics, and cognitive culture. Current projects include two new books, *Ageing and Everyday Life: Materializations and Embodiments*, and *Essays on Mind, Body and Self in Later Life*, and research on technologies of 'quantified ageing' with Barbara Marshall.

Ros Jennings

The Soundtracks of My/Our Life/Lives: Ageing, Identity and Remembered Music

The soundtracks of my/our life/lives: ageing, identity and remembered music. Popular music is increasingly understood as an important way for many people to construct and articulate their identities along their life course (Bennett, 2013). Intersecting with a nexus of contextual references and emotions, popular music offers a rich resource to interrogate reflections and reminiscences about ageing and identity. The following presentation examines popular music's role as a memory object (Van Dijck, 2004) that is archived in multiple ways, individually and collectively. It explores a 'TimeSpace' (May and Thrift, 2001) of ageing by investigating the ways that certain popular music tracks are remembered in the present but also archived and evaluated along the life-course. The research utilizes the concept of the 'Soundtrack of my life', which has been a regular feature in the British newspaper, *The Guardian*. In this feature, popular musicians and singers select certain tracks and explain why they have importance in their lives. Using this format as a guide, the work outlined here interrogates relationships between music, memory, age and identity that emerged in a qualitative study where soundtracks were selected by, and reminiscences were produced by, two friendship groups with members aged between 53 and 87 years of age. The overall analysis suggests that by using self-reflexive memory work in this way, the

research is able to transcend the tendency to produce the kind of binary 'before' and 'after' (Stephens, 2010) accounts of identity that have been produced as a result of conceptualizing age as either young or old, instead of forming in a continuum of experience.

Ros Jennings is Professor of Ageing, Culture and Media and Director of the Centre for Women, Ageing and Media (WAM) at the University of Gloucestershire, UK. She is a researcher and collaborative partner lead for the Ageing, Communications and Technology (ACT) project and leader of the annual WAM International Summer School. Prof Jennings is currently co-writing a book about ageing and popular music in Europe, forthcoming Routledge 2017.

Panel 42

Ageing Beauties

📅 Saturday, April 29 / ⌚ 13:30–15:00 / 🏠 SR B1

Chair: Naomi Woodspring

Participants: Naomi Woodspring, Sukey Parnell, Josephine Dolan

Despite the growing numbers of older people, many representations of ageing are limited to familiar stereotypes and tropes. This kind of cultural framing of older people is an important influence in political, social, and policy notions and decisions. Representations, particularly of women, misrepresent the realities of ageing and tend to perpetuate societal ageism and, in some ways, internalised ageism. The fashion and beauty industries, and media in general, struggle to come to terms with representing old women as a demographic, as well as a consumer group. This misrepresentation and, in some cases lack of representation, is especially noticeable within the postwar demographic born into a time when the fashion industry was on the rise, who, now, as they age, continue to enjoy creating an identity, in part, through their presentation of self. Though there is some recognition of older women by media and industry, they have yet to come to terms with ageing identities and create representations that reflect those ageing identities. Older women want more than twenty-something models dressed in clothes designed for sixty year old bodies. There is a tension between struggling with their own sense of ageing identity and the desire to create their own look, wheth-

er that be chic and elegant, or funky and up-to-the-minute, or somewhere in between. Issues of body change and beauty are an important part of the process of ageing. Can old women be beautiful? Are ageing bodies part of a process of unremitting decline, or is it possible that ageing can be a generative or, even, an exciting time of life, creating another layer of identity? How and what would it look like if new ageing identities were represented that matched the reality of embodiment of ageing women? Is it even possible that beauty is a relevant aspect of ageing identity?

The everyday forms of creativity that older women engage in in terms of self-presentations, and the relationship of these to notions of beauty are currently by, and large ignored by contemporary scholarship. Older women's beauty practices, choices, and even how they frame ageing self-presentation constitute a blind spot for both literature and social discourse on aging. This symposium will bring together three scholars to explore the relationship between beauty representations of older woman, beauty practices, and the construction of beauty itself. Sukey Parnell, through her film work investigates in/visibility of older women in photographic portraits in greater depth and in turn, generates work that heightens an awareness

Naomi Woodspring

Facing Beauty

of the complexity of the cultural forces playing out through media images. We believe that understanding the cultural narratives of ageing, including those that are embedded in our cultural construction of beauty, are key ways of investigating some of the ways in which our societies represent and engage with ageing. This provocative symposium will refocus the debates about definitions of aging beauty and the role of ageing representations.

Representations of older women have a potent effect on our cultural and societal framing of what it means to age. Stories abound with the conventional wisdom that old women “lose their looks” and “become invisible.” The longevity revolution and shifting notions of identity coalesce as older women seek to find modes of self –presentation as they age. There is a tension between struggling with their own sense of ageing identity and the desire to create their own look, representative of their sense of identity. Issues of body change and beauty are an important part of the process of ageing. Representations are not concerned with the ‘inner beauty,’ nor can they be. As we age, does experience and age mark some of us in ways that are aesthetically beautiful? Our Western cultural notions of beauty come from an over 2000 year history that preferences youth and symmetry. Perhaps, it is not possible or, even desirable to change those historical preferences. What then is beauty in old age? Is it even a possibility given the long history of aesthetic preferences?

At this moment in history, women are seeking new meanings for beauty and identity. How do we define beauty in this changing cultural landscape of ageing? Is there a singular definition of beauty, or does it shift through the lifespan? These questions cannot be disconnected from the many influences that shape the current cultural landscape from feminist notions of

Sukey Parnell

Age, Face and Illusion

self-presentation to the consumer beauty and fashion industries. This paper explores the question: Can old women be beautiful? The paper is based on research that investigates older women as visible and actively attentive to the way they self-present and shape their identities. What if beauty is not an applicable idea or ideal? The answer is something else – something that visually engages and intrigues.

Naomi Woodspring's curiosity about postwar generation, history, culture, identity, and embodiment led her to pursue a PhD which she completed in 2014. She later published a *Baby Boomers, Time, and Ageing Bodies* (Policy Press) based on her doctoral research. She is a Research Fellow, University of the West of England, as part of the Bristol Ageing Better project. Woodspring is interested in the many dimensions of ageing and embodiment. Her current work investigates beauty, pleasure and memory. Prior to returning to university as a late life learner, she had her own consulting firm providing sustainable solutions to organisational and community challenges. She also worked as a psychotherapist in a wide variety of settings from a managing a community prison project to Native American communities.

Contemporary social narratives relate a lack of images of older women to a loss of youth, beauty and performative power and call for new images of ageing to support a social view of older women. In the aesthetic discourses playing out through Western art, the signs of female age are considered antithetical to beauty. But exactly how is the process of pictorialisation operating within these discourses? My doctoral thesis and experimental film, *Hagging the Image*, explores questions of 'femininity', photographic image, and ageing. I argue that before we can apprehend 'new' images of ageing, we must address the complex of narratives and responses that circulate around images of older women in new ways.

To illustrate and investigate some of the complexities of pictorialisation, I will use a visual trope that plays on the symbolic idea of the vanity of female beauty and attention to appearances. This popular visual illusion emerged in the 19th century around the same time as the widespread take up of portraiture photography. Using this image as a guide, I will ask how discourses operating between classical ideals of beauty and the apprehension of age operate pictorially to evoke certain culturally conditioned responses. I will also discuss these in relation to the construction of my own work which interweaves filmic footage and conversation to evoke other, perhaps older, narratives of femaleness, power and age.

Sukey Parnell is an award winning photographer and artist with a unique focus on transitions in ageing and 'femininity'. Her work has appeared in various exhibitions at the National Portrait Gallery, amongst others, and in many leading publications, including *The Sunday Times*, *The Independent*, *Saga Magazine* and the *Radio Times*. Sukey is currently in the final stages of a PhD by Practice at the University of West London.

Josephine Dolan

Ageing Beauties. Hollywood, the 'economy of celebrity' and the Silvering of Beauty

this contribution to the panel develops Naomi Wolf's account of the 'Beauty Myth' through the dual meanings of 'silvering' – profits and the signs of ageing – as they circulate 'repetitively and non-sequentially' (Holmes and Negra, 2008: 23) in the 'economy of celebrity'. Bearing in mind that celebrities are 'developed to make money' both for themselves through payment for their labour in performances, appearances, interviews, endorsements and so on, and also for investors in films and spin off industries (Turner, 2014: 36), and that stars are systems of meaning making (Dyer, 1979; 1986) this paper explores the figure of the ageing female star within the 'economy of celebrity' – 'We're worth it'. It aims to tease out the meshes of the 'Silvered Beauty Myth' whereby beauty is constituted as the product of artifice (Cook, 2012); where the micro-scrutiny of the gossip blogosphere serves to pathologise ageing; and simultaneously aligns 'successful ageing' with a rejuvenation imperative that is adjudicated through a 'successful' or 'botched' plastic surgery dichotomy. Even as ageing female stars are variously aligned along the 'successful/botched' dichotomy, and the likes of Madonna and Susan Sarandon are vilified for 'failing' at rejuvenation, a select few, such as Judi Dench and Meryl Streep who forswear plastic surgery, are praised for their 'unlifted' looks.

Josephine Dolan is a Visiting Reader with WAM (Research Centre for Women, Ageing and Media) at the University of Gloucestershire and is an expert advisor to ENAS (European Network of Ageing Studies), NANAS (North American Network of Aging Studies), DEDAL-LIT Grup and is affiliated to the Canadian SSHRC funded ACT project (Ageing+Communication+Technology). Working at the intersection of Ageing and Cinema Studies, her 2016 publications include 'The cooking of friendships: Nora Ephron and the life-work of "mediated intimacy"' in *Literary Creativity and the Older Woman Writer: A Collection of Critical Essays* (Casado-Gual et al.), and "'Old age" films: golden retirement, dispossession and disturbance' in the 'Gender, Ageing and Sexuality in British Cinema Post-Thatcher' special issue of the *Journal of British Cinema and Television*, while she guest edited that journal's April 2017 'Screening "Old Age"' special issue. She is currently writing a book, *Contemporary Cinema and 'Old Age': Gender and the Silvering of Stardom*, for October 2017 publication by Palgrave.

Panel 43

Old Age Politicized

📅 Saturday, April 29 / ⌚ 13:30–15:00 / 🏠 SR C1

Chair: *Xaver Hergenröther*

Participants: *Marcela Petrová Kafková, Lucie Galčanová,
Marie-Ève Vautrin-Nadeau, James Chappel*

Marcela Petrová Kafková & Lucie Galčanová

Fourth Age Identity: An Ambiguous Field

The Fourth Age (4A) is not addressed as a standard life stage, but as a final stage of some older people that is substantially influenced by their care-reliance. The definition of 4A in terms of decline and dependency has helped to focus on the experience of those who do not fall into the category of “active agers”, but it has also challenged the notion of autonomy and positive Self-identity in advanced old age. The prevalent image of 4A is based on the conceptualization by Gilleard and Higgs, who define 4A as a “social imaginary”, a “black hole” from which there is no way back. Other researchers have discussed their view as limiting the possibilities of research on the agency of those living in this liminal grey zone. Even if there might be a state of full dependency, people mostly live through very diverse experiences of receiving and rejecting care; that is, some space for negotiation and agency is almost always present.

In our paper, we aim to discuss various perceptions of identity among fourth-agers receiving care in their homes and in institutions. On the basis of the results of qualitative research (using repeated in-depth interviews and ethnography) conducted in the Czech Republic between 2015 and 2016, we would like to present the heterogeneity of people in 4A. We will focus on how they engage in (or withdraw from) various forms of decision making in everyday life, and on how they build their own social identity in relation to practices of care and to their ageing Selves and bodies.

Mgr. **Marcela Petrová Kafková**, Ph.D. is a sociologist and researcher at the Office for Population Studies at the Faculty of Social Studies, Masaryk University. Her research interest lies in social gerontology. Her research concentrates on issues surrounding the active ageing concept, environmental gerontology, the fourth age, and intergenerational relations.

Mgr. **Lucie Galčanová**, Ph.D. works as a sociologist at the Office for Population Studies and as an external lecturer at the Dept. of Sociology and Dept. of Environmental Studies at the Faculty of Social Studies, Masaryk University. In her research, she focuses mainly on cultural and environmental gerontology, urban studies, and the sociology of home and housing.

Marie-Ève Vautrin-Nadeau

Heritagization in Quebec: Thinking the Production of Tradition Bearers Critically

One year ago, Canada's data agency, Statistics Canada, announced that the population of people aged sixty-five and older, is now larger than the number of children under fifteen among its provinces. Discussed as a pressing issue that raises many socioeconomic changes and challenges (retiring policies, public health services, etc.), ageing population impacts Quebec's cultural sector, as projects looking to valorize the elderly, and stating the importance of the intergenerational relationships are developed.

As several cultural organizations put forward projects and events to celebrate 'traditional music' in Quebec, and claim its heritage value, the elders' role in the constitution of the province's 'intangible heritage' is also promulgated. They (white Francophones, and mostly men) are said to be 'tradition bearers', embodying Quebec's cultural past before the Revolution Tranquille – before the 1960s. According to Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett (2004), the term 'bearers of tradition(s)' "connote[s] a passive medium, conduit or vessel, without volition, intention or subjectivity [...] [but the people given that title] change how people understand their culture and themselves" (p. 58). Based on my MA research, I propose a discussion on the production of the 'tradition bearer' figure in the heritage sector, as 'Quebec traditional music' is instituted. I suggest it raises important ques-

tions regarding ageing discourses and heritage management in the present conjuncture.

Marie-Ève Vautrin-Nadeau is a PhD student, and works under the supervision of Line Grenier, associate professor at Université de Montréal and an active member of the ACT project. In her MA thesis, she explored the notion of 'intangible heritage' at an associative level, as she was interested in the (re)configuration of governance and participation modes in North America in regards of heritage processes. Her research interests are the intersection of popular culture, heritagization, ageing and public health.

James Chappel

***Volkssolidarität* and the Cultural Heritage of Aging in 1950s East Germany**

The East German approach to aging has been roundly criticized by historians and social policy experts. Yet if we look at East German society as a whole, instead of focusing on pension rates, a more balanced picture emerges. Drawing on the archives of “People’s Solidarity” [Volkssolidarität], this paper will explore the innovative forms of eldercare that were pioneered in East Germany. In the wake of World War II, a network of volunteers and public health experts worked together to create a new and socialist culture of aging. Veteranen, as the elderly in East Germany were known, gathered in state-provided clubs, socialized at their old workplaces, and even contributed their labor to the socialist experiment, forming “brigades of pensioners” to provide childcare, janitorial labor, and more. While East Germans proclaimed these ideas to be novel and Communist, they in fact had a surprising German heritage. Volkssolidarität was a direct successor to “National Socialist People’s Welfare” [NSV], and the organization drew upon Nazi medicine and gerontology. To be sure, Volkssolidarität provided humanist and socialist versions of these Nazi themes, and West Germans appropriated Nazi ideals of aging even more explicitly. This analysis is not meant to criticize East Germany, but to show how the cultural heritage of aging can survive through an event as cataclysmic as World War II. Ideas about the elderly are rooted in science, emotion, and family history: they do not change as quickly as political regimes.

James Chappel is an assistant professor of History at Duke University. He received his PhD from Columbia University in 2012. His first book, “Spiritual Welfare: Catholic Political Economy in Twentieth Century Europe,” will appear from Harvard University Press in 2018, and he is currently working on cultures of aging in twentieth-century Germany.

Session I

Panel 44

Old Age as a Work of Art

📅 Saturday, April 29 / ⌚ 15:30–17:00 / 🏠 SR KW 12

Chair: *Hanne Laceulle*

Participants: *Joep Dohmen, Hanne Laceulle, Joachim Duyndam,
Aagje Swinnen*

the French philosopher Michel Foucault once famously asked the question: 'Why should the lamp or the house be a work of art, but not our life?' He aimed to revive an ancient Greco-Roman tradition in which philosophy was conceived as a set of practical exercises aiming to realize our optimal human potential. In the last decades, contemporary thinkers like Schmid, Kekes and Dohmen have taken Foucault's lead in exploring this tradition, suggesting its special relevance as a moral philosophical framework for the fragmented and pluralistic moral situation of late modernity. They have developed a lively philosophical discourse focusing on the 'art of living'.

This symposium explores the possible adaptation of the art of living discourse to the context of aging. Generally speaking, we contend that one of the possible merits of this discourse could be that it offers resources to draw attention to the creative and developmental potentials of old age, which are often overlooked in dominant cultural understandings of later life. At the same time, we argue that a viable adaptation of the art of living discourse to the context of aging should offer resources for a meaningful

integration of the reality of existential vulnerability connected with later life. In other words, for old age to be perceived as a work of art, we need an understanding of a later life as a creative balancing act, in which we strive for optimal development of ourselves on the one hand, while, on the other hand, we deal with the fragility and vulnerability of our human condition in a resilient manner.

Joep Dohmen

Art of Living, Narrativity and Aging Well

The first paper by Joep Dohmen will address the connection between art of living, narrativity and aging well. Starting point is Foucault's assessment that late modernity is dominated by a neoliberal pathos of negative freedom. In his later works, Foucault developed an alternative to this neoliberal understanding of freedom: his concept of art of living (*souci de soi*), which remained unfinished due to his early death. Foucault's successors, such as Hadot, Nehamas, Schmid, and Shusterman sought different (moral, political and spiritual) ways to further (critically) developing his appeal to shape one's own life through practices of self-care. This paper explores how this appeal can be followed by aging people, and how narrativity plays a role in this endeavor. Narrativity is conceived in this context as the continuous (re)creation of one's life story, against the background of dominant cultural narratives, aiming at both resiliency and endurance of discontinuities.

Joep Dohmen is an emeritus professor of Practical and Philosophical Ethics at the University of Humanistic Studies, Utrecht. After his PhD on Nietzsche's moral perspective on human nature, he devoted his career to the philosophical rethinking of ancient and contemporary art of living perspectives, aiming to provide both a critique and a viable alternative to the narrow neoliberal ethics of negative freedom.

Hanne Laceulle

Authenticity and the Art of Aging

the second paper by Hanne Laceulle will explore a very significant theme within the art of living discourse, namely authenticity. Authenticity has become a guiding moral notion in times of secularization and erosion of traditional sources of moral authority. Instead of following the rules and norms of moral tradition or convention, an ethics of authenticity presupposes that one's own original inner motivations and intuitions provide a more reliable and valid source of moral authority. However, an ethics of authenticity might raise critical questions about our social and moral interdependencies that are particularly relevant in the context of aging. The paper will present a critical evaluation of some shortcomings of existing interpretations of authenticity when applying them to the context of aging, and suggest how these shortcomings could be remedied by re-conceptualizing authenticity in terms of a social and moral practice.

Hanne Laceulle is an assistant professor at the University of Humanistic Studies in Utrecht, the Netherlands. Her focus is on ethical perspectives concerning the life course, with an emphasis on self-realization, moral agency, autonomy, authenticity and virtue, as a follow up on her PhD project that culminated in the dissertation "Becoming who you are. Aging, self-realization and cultural narratives about later life" (2016).

Joachim Duyndam

Art of Aging: The Role of Exemplary Figures

The third paper by Joachim Duyndam argues that aging well, conceived in terms of an art of living practice is strongly fostered by the accessibility of good exemplars. Inspiring exemplars of sagacious, wise, convincing, or resilient aged people – whether it be real existing or historical people, or fictional characters from films or novels – may be highly helpful to people who find difficulty or adversity while aging. The meaning and importance of exemplars to our conduct and to the decisions we make during our life course can be articulated through hermeneutical philosophy. In fact, the relationship of the moral agent to an inspiring role model is hermeneutical in its core, so it is argued. In this paper it will be explained that the adoption (acquiring, appropriation) of the values demonstrated or embodied by the exemplar is no simple imitation; it is an interpretive process: creatively hermeneutical ‘reading’ of the role model’s narrative.

Joachim Duyndam is Professor of Humanism and Philosophy at the University of Humanistic Studies in Utrecht, the Netherlands. He chairs the university’s research program Humanist Traditions, Meaning in Life, and Aging Well. His publications are, from humanistic and philosophical perspectives, on themes such as mimesis, empathy, enjoyment, and resilience.

Aagje Swinnen

Mumbling Beauty: Louise Bourgeois – Portraits of the Artist as an Older Woman

The fourth paper by Aagje Swinnen explores a case in which Foucault’s idea that life (or in this case, old age) can also be made into a work of art takes a very concrete form. The paper presents the intersections of gender and age in relation to late-life creativity by analyzing the collaborative photo book *Mumbling Beauty: Louise Bourgeois* by Alex Van Gelder (2015). This book consists of 81 photographs of Louise Bourgeois (1911–2010) taken in the final years of her life (the period 2008–2010). Bourgeois’ art work is always characterized by a fascination for the female body and double standards related to gender and sexuality. Research into her so-called late style has focused on the return to the subject of the maternal body in her final years and the way this resonates with contemporary anxieties about late-life motherhood and postmenopausal bodies. There is, however, no scholarship yet on Bourgeois’ age and gender performances in *Mumbling Beauty* to complete the existing scholarship. I ask how Bourgeois’s play with different modes of self-fashioning in front of Van Gelder’s camera contributes to a new aesthetics of older women’s bodies, and to what extent this aesthetics has the capacity to transform conventional routines of looking. If we understand age and gender as mutually constructed processes of becoming, the new visibility of Bourgeois’ portraits as an aging woman artist testifies to an in-

novative contemporary approach of aging, corporeality, and embodiment in both photography and aging studies. Photography as medium automatically draws attention to visual markers of aging as corporeal change. Simultaneously, it discloses embodied practices by evoking interiority, memory, passages of time and space, and providing commentary on previous portrait photography. Bourgeois does not comply with standards of age defiance but reveals the fragility of her body. Several role plays, engagements with curious props including her own art objects, as well as techniques deviating from mimetic photographic practices (e.g., blur and overexposure) put this fragility into perspective and highlight her agency as aging woman artist.

Aagje Swinnen is an Assistant Professor at the Center for Gender and Diversity of Maastricht University and Socrates Endowed Chair in International Humanism and the Art of Living at the University of Humanistic Studies in Utrecht, the Netherlands. Swinnen has published on the workings of age ideologies and the intersection of age and other markers of social difference such as gender, sexuality, and disability in a wide variety of cultural texts in, e.g., *The Gerontologist*, *Dementia*, and *Journal of Aging Studies*. She co-edited the volumes *Aging, Performance and Stardom: Doing Age on the Stage of Consumerist Culture* (with J.A. Stotesbury, 2012) and *Popularizing Dementia: Public Expressions and Representations of Forgetfulness* (with M. Schweda, 2015). Committed to stimulate dialogue among disciplines, Swinnen is co-founder and current deputy chair of the European Network in Aging Studies as well as co-editor of the new journal *Age, Culture, Humanities*.

Panel 45

Meaning in Life and Social Connectedness in the Ageing Process: A Humanist Perspective

📅 Saturday, April 29 / ⌚ 15:30–17:00 / 🏠 SR KW 21

Chair: *Peter Derkx*

Participants: *Peter Derkx, Anja Machielse, Pien Bos,
Wander van der Vaart*

in the contemporary Western societies, the 'greying of society', its financial consequences, and the biological and pathological processes associated with the 'senescence' of human bodies over time, have been widely researched. This interdisciplinary symposium focuses on meaning in the lives of elderly persons. It is about life as an existential and socially situated process, which 'ageing' people experience as meaningful or not, as more or less meaningful.

'Meaning in life' is a comprehensive construct that originated in the work of Viktor Frankl and in the last thirty years has been conceptualised in various ways, e.g. by Baumeister (1991), Morgan & Farsides (2009) and Derkx (2013). In this symposium, a meaningful life is understood as a life in which basic needs for meaning such as purpose, moral worth and connectedness are fulfilled. The papers that will be presented show how meaning in the life of older adults can be studied from a humanistic perspective. They deal with philosophical foundations, qualitative empirical research findings and methodological issues regarding data collection.

Peter Derkx

Meaning in Life: A Humanist View

in his paper Derkx – starting from Baumeister – develops a theory of a meaningful life as involving seven needs for meaning: needs for purpose, moral worth, self-worth, competence, comprehensibility, connectedness and excitement. Some of these needs together refer to a need for transcendence. Atheistic and agnostic humanism and religions can be regarded as meaning frames. This theory – more than Baumeister's – strikes a balance between agency and communion. After outlining the theory the value and relevance of a meaning perspective for ageing well will be illustrated from a humanistic perspective, from humanism as a meaning frame. Issues that will be dealt with in this context are: (1) the difference between a happy life (=> well-being) and a meaningful life, (2) continuity, disengagement and activity, (3) individualistic coherence (identity) and 'lateral' (relational) integration, (4) the social construction and institutionalisation of a standard life course, and (5) resilience as recovery, resistance and reconfiguration (transformation).

Anja Machielse

Meaning in Life of Socially Isolated Elderly People in a Big City

Dr **Peter Derkx** is emeritus professor of Humanism and Worldviews at the University of Humanistic Studies in Utrecht, the Netherlands. He studied English language and literature, philosophy and history at universities in Utrecht, Glasgow and Groningen. His main research interest is the interface between humanism, meaning in life and ageing well. Recent and forthcoming publications deal with ethical evaluation of substantial human life extension and the contribution of the humanities to the ageing studies.

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achielse focuses on the relationship between meaning in life and social connectedness. In humanism, meaning in life is conceived as fundamentally social. It is assumed that positive personal attachments contribute substantially to the capacity of making sense of one's life. In turn, the experience of a meaningful life protects against the effects of major damaging changes in various life domains, which tend to occur more often as people age.

This paper investigates how older adults in a big city who have trouble entering into, and maintaining social relationships, experience their disembeddedness, and how their lack of social competence influences their experience of a meaningful life. The data from a longitudinal study on 50 socially isolated older adults in the Netherlands are used to explore whether and how these elderly persons try to bring meaning into their lives and to what degree they succeed. The findings will center upon the dimensions of self-worth, competence and comprehensibility.

Dr. **Anja Machielse** holds the endowed professorship 'Empowerment of Vulnerable Older Adults' at the University of Humanistic Studies in Utrecht, the Netherlands. She studied philosophy and social sciences. Her philosophical work is mainly on philosophy of science and research ethics. As a social scientist, she is specializing in research on issues concerning vulnerable older people (especially loneliness and social isolation), informal care and volunteering, and meaning in life. Besides, she is interested in the development and implementation of innovative forms of participatory research designs.

Pien Bos

Meaning in Life of Elderly People in a Rural Orthodox Protestant Environment

The paper by Bos reports on a qualitative (ethnographic) research project on meaning in life of rural elderly people in the Netherlands. This anthropological investigation is based upon in-depth interviews and thick descriptions (participant observations) collected among elderly persons in a rural orthodox protestant area (1600 citizens). Data are collected among 75+ people who are ageing in a context where families traditionally live in inter-generational households (extended families). Our findings are centered upon dimensions such as purpose, moral worth, self-worth, competence, comprehensibility, connectedness and excitement. Hence, the paper explores meaning in life of people who are embedded in a family, religious and village community.

Dr. **Pien Bos** is a cultural anthropologist. In 2008 she completed her PhD (with distinction) on the decision-making process of unmarried mothers in India with regard to relinquishment or acceptance of their children. Her post-doc research was on the same subject in the Netherlands (2011) and in Viet Nam (2015). In 2011 she became assistant professor at the University of Humanistic Studies in Utrecht and in 2014 she started research on 'Meaning in Life and Ageing Well'.

Wander van der Vaart

Data Collection Methods for Research into Meaning in Life of Older People Receiving Long-Term Care

Van der Vaart presents a methodological paper on the development of tailor-made data collection procedures for research into meaning in life (MiL) of older people receiving long-term care. The study aims to address the fact that on issues like MiL the own perceptions and experiences of older people receiving long-term care (LTC) remain under-researched due to the lack of proper methods. Standardized data collection methods exist, but often are not fully qualified to obtain the required information from these hard to examine populations.

This study involves qualitative research that focuses on developing indicators for a) 'the quality of coping with existential questions' as observed in LTC organizations, and b) the impact of 'coping with existential questions' on meaning in life of older clients. An inductive, explorative approach was used to find indicators that are based on experiences of older clients and health staff. A case study was designed concerning two purposefully selected LTC organizations. Data were gathered through documents, in-depth

interviews with older residents and focus group interviews with staff from multidisciplinary teams and clients/family councils. The study resulted in substantial themes that could be connected to theoretical dimensions of MiL (like connectedness, goal directedness, transcendence) and in future, research can be further specified into indicators for 'quality of coping with existential questions' and 'impact on MiL of older clients'.

Dr **Wander van der Vaart** is associate professor Research Methodology at the University of Humanistic Studies, Utrecht, the Netherlands. He has a background in political science, research methods and psychology. His main research interests are in social and cognitive aspects of (survey) methodology and methods of data collection. Recent research focuses on a) quality of retrospective data and aided recall procedures and b) tailor-made data collection procedures for people who – by their lesser abilities or complicated situation – experience high task difficulty as a respondent.

Panel 46

Feminist Gerontology

📅 Saturday, April 29 / ⌚ 15:30–17:00 / 🏠 Conference Hall

Chair: Sally Chivers

Participants: Marija Geiger Zeman, Zdenko Zeman, Mirela Holy,
Amanda Barusch, Maricel Oró-Piqueras,
Núria Casado-Gual

Marija Geiger Zeman, Zdenko Zeman, Mirela Holy She Is So Old and Dangerous: Witch, (Popular) Culture and Feminist Gerontology

The witch is a polysemic and multiple encoded heroine whose semantic transformation is interesting to analyze particularly from the perspective of cultural and feminist gerontology, as well as the study of popular culture. In patriarchal perspective, witches are coded as the Other (mythical or concrete) persons that, by their appearance, dressing, lifestyle choices, preferences or chronological age, fit into the various sexist, ageist and gender stereotypes that have permeated the traditional, pre-modern culture but to a certain extent (in more or less modified form) exist even today. The notions of witches in popular culture of the last century experienced a significant metamorphosis. The traditional concept of witches as physically unattractive, sometimes deformed old women in the entertainment industry has undergone a radical visual makeover – she became a young and physically attractive, emphatically sexualized temptress. The central place in the analysis is occupied by the movie *Snow White and the Huntsman* (2012, dir. Rupert Sanders), who through reinterpretation of the famous fairy tale offers postfeminist presentation of the evil stepmother obsessed with eternal youth and beauty as a major life capital. This feminist ambivalent film interpretation proves to be highly problematic and opens up a range of feminist gerontology crucial issues. Given that the witch as a social construct points out the complex connections of aging/

old age and culture, the paper examines the possibility of new codings and interpretations of the character of the witch beyond ageist and sexist logic (Ray, 2003), where this interesting figure is re-thought in relation to two romanticized, stereotypical and restrictive ideas – good, dear, sweet granny and wise, proud and powerful old woman (crone) (Cruikshank, 2009).

Marija Geiger Zeman, Ph.D., sociologist, works at the Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar in Zagreb. In her professional work she is interested in gender issues, aging, socio-cultural aspects of sustainability, marginalized populations and qualitative methodology. In 2009 she received National Science Award of the Republic of Croatia in the field of social sciences.

Zdenko Zeman, Ph.D., sociologist and philosopher, works at the Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar in Zagreb. In his professional work he has developed interest in sociological theories of (post)modernization, aging, gender issues, and socio-cultural aspects of sustainability, with the empirical work based on qualitative methodology. **Mirela Holy**, Ph.D., professor at the University VERN' in Zagreb, graduated in ethnology and literature. She has been active in the 'green' movement as an activist and writer, as a Head of the Cabinet and as a Minister of environmental protection. She was a member of the Croatian National Parliament in two mandates. She is also engaged in human rights issues, especially women's rights, and received Human Rights Award 'Miko Tripalo' in 2012.

Amanda Barusch

Cougars and Crones: Alternative Representations of Older Women

Alternative representations push against conventional boundaries to expand the range of possible selves for older women. Among these, the cougar and crone constructs are particularly invigorating and potentially empowering. The use of the term cougar to refer to an older woman who either generally prefers younger men or is intimately involved with one younger man is generally traced to a 2001 work by Valerie Gibson. Crone, on the other hand has a long history referring to “a withered, witch-like old woman.” In a move reminiscent of young women reclaiming the term “slut,” some older women have embraced “crone,” to celebrate their attainment of age.

Cougars and crones tend to differ in their approaches to age. Where cougars might flaunt their vitality and youthful (if at times artificial) appearances, crones eschew “the trappings of false youth,” vaunting instead their maturity and wisdom. However, both representations resist the dominant “gloom and doom” narrative of age; and both have united older women to challenge the boundaries of propriety.

This paper will explore the evolution and manifestation of these representations through popular media and social network outlets. It will present case studies of prototypical cougars and crones, including: Georgia O'Keefe, Tina Turner, Sue Ellen Cooper (founder of the Red Hat Soci-

ety), and Ann Baker (founder of Women at Woodstock). Literary sources such as Robert Haas's seminal work: "A Story about the Body" will also be referenced.

Amanda Barusch holds professorial appointments at the University of Utah and the University of Otago (New Zealand). She has authored or co-authored seven books. Her most recent, "Love Stories of Later Life," was published by Oxford University Press. Reviews have lauded its "new and profound insights," described the book as "delightful, hopeful and inspiring," and exulted its "major contribution to breaking down stereotypes of what it means to grow old." Amanda's articles have appeared in the *Journal of Aging, Humanities and the Arts*, *The Gerontologist*, *Social Work*, *International Journal of Aging and Human Development*, and other journals.

Amanda is a fellow in the Gerontological Society of America, the former Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Gerontological Social Work*, and recipient of the AGE-Social Work Leadership Award. She completed her BA in psychology at Reed College; her MSW and PhD at University of California, Berkeley; and her MFA at University of Utah.

Maricel Oró-Piqueras & Núria Casado-Gual

Diane Keaton, the New 'Gerontocom' Star: A Textual Analysis of Her Later Films and Star Persona

At the end of the 1980s, Barbara Frey Waxman and Margaret M. Gullette coined the word *Reifungsroman* to refer to a number of novels which portrayed late-middle-aged women within a narrative of progress, rather than a narrative of decline. Within the film industry, the romantic comedy genre has undergone a similar transformation in the last decade, to the extent of favoring the appearance of the term "gerontocom" (coined by Anna Smith in *Time-Out* magazine). *Something's Gotta Give* (Meyers 2003) has been considered one of the first films of this subgenre, and its female star, Diane Keaton, one of the women actors to epitomize contemporary views of old age and gender. Meyers' romantic comedy transformed Keaton's characteristic image of the life-affirming, liberal, urban woman into a successful icon of aging femininity. The actress' most recent comedies reinforce this image and, with it, a pattern of continuity in the presentation of her star persona. At the same time, though, some of her later films integrate other aspects of aged – and gendered – identities that offer a slightly more nuanced representa-

tion of old age. The main aim of our paper is, firstly, to analyze the role given to Diane Keaton in her late romantic comedies and to observe the portrayal of ageing that is developed through them; and, secondly, to examine the presentation of Keaton's star persona in those films and the discourses of (female) ageing that intersect in her image. Through this double examination, we intend to explain Keaton's late conversion into one of Hollywood's emblems of a desirable expression of ageing femininity and, as such, into the ideal star of the 'gerontocom,' a popular genre that is bound to condition the perception and experience of present and future forms of ageing.

Maricel Oró-Piqueras is Assistant Professor and Núria Casado-Gual is Associate Professor, both set at the Department of English and Linguistics, Universitat de Lleida. Oró-Piqueras and Casado-Gual are members of research Group Dedal-Lit and also members of ENAS. They have been working on representations of ageing and old age in fiction and media since 2002, when Grup Dedal-Lit was granted a research project from the Spanish Ministry of Education and Competitiveness.

Panel 47

Dementia II

📅 Saturday, April 29 / 🕒 15:30–17:00 / 🏠 SR B1

Chair: *Maria Sonneliehn*

Participants: *Julia Gray, Pia Kontos, Sherry L. Dupuis,
Christine Jonas-Simpson, Gail J. Mitchell,
Sarmishta Bhattacharyya, Sujoy Mukherjee,
Gautam Saha, OP Singh, Marjorie Silverman,
Mark Molgat, Shari Brotman, Paula Vasara*

Julia Gray, Pia Kontos, Sherry L. Dupuis,
Christine Jonas-Simpson, Gail J. Mitchell

Re-telling Dementia: Exposing the Tragedy of Dementia and Envisioning Alternatives through Theatre

We are an interdisciplinary group of health and artist-researchers concerned about the ways that persons living with dementia are viewed as dysfunctional, socially excluded, deprived of their dignity, and with diminished quality of life. Following Indigenous scholar and storyteller Thomas King, we recognize that “the truth about stories is that that’s all that we are.” Stories not only teach us individually and collectively who we are and help us imagine who we might become, but they also have the power to connect us and disconnect us, justifying othering and violence. Stories build upon previous stories with the potential to root (or chain) us to particular assumptions and ways of being, but can also help us expand and see differently. A powerful example of this is the ways the tragedy narrative of dementia is dominant and culturally produced through media and artistic representations. This tragedy narrative infiltrates social assumptions about dementia and significantly shapes policy and organizational practices that guide the care of individuals living with dementia. Cracked: new light on de-

mentia, a research-informed play, was developed to open up a playful, critical space to expose and dismantle these conceptions of dementia, unjust care practices, and policies, and to facilitate envisioning and inspiring an alternative care culture. In this paper, we draw on examples from *Cracked* to explore the ways we invite audience members to “think with stories”, and to grapple with complexity and imagine new possibilities.

Dr. **Julia Gray** is a post-doctoral fellow at Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital and Artistic Director of Possible Arts. Her expertise is in research-based drama, critical qualitative health research, and arts-based knowledge translation with a particular focus in community engagement through the arts and exploration of artistic processes in applied settings. Dr. **Pia Kontos** is a Senior Scientist at Toronto Rehabilitation Institute- University Health Network and Associate Professor in the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto. Central to her program of research is reducing societal misconceptions and stereotypes around dementia, and

promoting inclusive and meaningful engagement of persons living with dementia. She produces research-based dramas and films to trigger personal and social change, and draws on the arts (music, dance, improvisational play) to engage people living with dementia, reduce social isolation, and enhance quality of life. Dr. **Sherry L. Dupuis** is a Professor in the Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies, University of Waterloo. Her expertise is in critical participatory action research, culture change, relational theory, critical disability studies, and creative and participatory knowledge translation strategies based on critical pedagogy. Dr. **Christine Jonas-Simpson** is an Associate Professor in the School of Nursing at York University, Director and Chair of the York-UHN Nursing Academy at the Toronto General Hospital, and Director of the Dotsa Bitove Wellness Academy for persons with dementia. She brings extensive experience and expertise in nursing, working with persons with dementia and their families, qualitative arts-based methodologies, and relational practice. Dr. **Gail J. Mitchell** is a Professor in the School of Nursing at York University with extensive experience in nursing practice as a clinical nurse specialist in gerontology, qualitative dementia research, and specialization in research-based drama, stigma, media representations of dementia, and in the advancement of relational practice.

Sarmishta Bhattacharyya, Sujoy Mukherjee, Gautam Saha, OP Singh

Collaborative Working across Continents to Develop Holistic Services for Older People in India

Globally, and specifically in India, the older adult population is increasing fast with a predicted 12% increase by 2020. Life expectancy has also doubled from 1946 to 2011. Welfare of older people has been a low priority for the Indian Government and there are almost nonexistent specialist geriatric care facilities. Elder abuse still remains a hidden problem. Evidence shows that 10% of older adults in India suffer from depression and 40-50% of older adults require psychiatric intervention. Since 1999, the government has attempted to improve older people's care by bringing in a National policy for older people and Maintenance of parents and Senior citizens Act (2007). More recently the National Programme for the Health care of Elderly (NPHCE) was launched in 2010, specifically for those aged over 60 to improve and develop both physical and mental health services. This policy, although still in its infant stages, has been positive in supporting and developing 8 Geriatric Regional centers and other important aspects of holistic care for older people. Although the progress is slow, there is now a post doctorate DM in Geriatric Psychiatry in Lucknow.

Our recent initiative brought Royal College of Psychiatrists, U.K. and British Geriatric Society together in order to support Indian Psychiatric Society in their development of specialist and holistic care for older people in India. However, there are cultural, demographic and organizational challenges that need to be explored for this to be effective.

Sharmi Bhattacharyya is a Consultant Old Age Psychiatrist in North Wales, U.K. and Honorary Senior Lecturer at University of Chester, U.K. She is also Joint editor for Faculty of Old Age Newsletter for Royal College of Psychiatrists. She enjoys teaching and has publications and presentations in her areas of interest which includes mental health in BME elderly, Young Onset Dementias, Mental Health Act and Mental Capacity Act in UK. Dr. **Sujoy Mukherjee** is a Consultant Psychiatrist from West London specialising in Old Age. He is interested in mental capacity, dementia and mood disorder. He has been a workstream lead for quality improvement work in London for NHS England. He is an Executive member of Faculty of Old Age Psychiatrists (Royal College of Psychiatrists) and has recently been nominated

Marjorie Silverman, Mark Molgat, Shari Brotman

Caring across Generations: The Lived Experiences and Life Course Impacts of Young Adults Caring for Older Adults – Preliminary Findings

Executive member of European Association of Geriatric Psychiatry. He is an examiner for Royal College of Psychiatrists and Imperial College, London where he is also a tutor in medical ethics. Dr. **Gautam Saha** MD, Psychiatry (Calcutta University). Director – Clinic Brain, Barasat, Kolkata, WB, India – a Research Institute of Neuro-Psychiatric discipline. Honorary General Secretary (2016-18), Indian Psychiatric Society (IPS), Chairperson Advocacy, Indian Association for Geriatric Mental Health (IAGMH), Chairperson Research & Publication Committee, Indian Association of Private Psychiatry (IAPP), Publications Multiple publications. Editor of three psychiatry books. Writer of four chapters in psychiatry books. Dr. **Om Prakash Singh** MD, Psychiatry. Professor & Head NRS Medical College, Kolkata, WB, India Direct Council Member (2014-17), Indian Psychiatric Society (IPS), Joint Secretary Indian Association for Geriatric Mental Health (IAGMH), Deputy Editor Indian Psychiatric Society (IPS), Editor Indian Psychiatric Society, Eastern Zonal Branch (IPS EZ). More than 50 publications. Writer of five chapters in psychiatry books.

This paper presents preliminary findings from the first year of a research project on intergenerational care. The project, currently being conducted in Ottawa, Canada, adopts a critical life course perspective to examine the everyday lived experiences of young adults providing care to older adults with disabilities or chronic physical, cognitive or mental illnesses. The research seeks to understand how this growing yet underrepresented population of caregivers are managing the emergence into adulthood, as well as what their experiences reveal about shifts in normative life course expectations. The research is grounded in critical perspectives of the life course, as the project seeks to deconstruct and understand how these caregivers' trajectories have been impacted by their caregiving responsibilities. The lives of young adult caregivers provide applied examples of non-homogeneous visions of the life course. This understanding is contributing to the development of theory regarding the application of critical life course approaches to research practices. For example, how can we use personal lived experi-

ences, instead of chronological age markers, to define research samples in studies that are critical of the normative life course? The paper also interrogates the methodological challenges of accessing everyday experiences in research. The project employs two forms of data collection: 1) social network mapping, which brings forth conversations about relationships, support and daily activities; and 2) participant-driven photography, which brings forth meaning about the objects, places and people in the participants' lives. To what extent can these methods access micro narratives and how can these micro narratives be placed into dialogue with critical life course theory? The preliminary findings interrogate these tensions in a manner that is relevant to gerontological research more broadly.

Marjorie Silverman is an Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work at the University of Ottawa in Canada. She is a social gerontologist with expertise in the area of family care.

Marc Molgat is a Full Professor in the School of Social Work at the University of Ottawa. His research focuses on the lives of young adults, including their housing trajectories, social ties and relationships with parents, as well as the integration of youth with low levels of education.

Shari Brotman is an Associate Professor in the School of Social Work at McGill University. Her research focuses on questions of access and equity in the design and delivery of health and social services to cultural communities in Canada. Her work incorporates an intersectional approach focusing on gender, race, culture, sexuality, disability and aging.

Paula Vasara

Exigencies and Choices. Narratives of Continuities, Transitions and Turning Points on the Housing Path in Older People's Life Course

Certain time and place presents options as well as constraints on the paths experienced available and desirable over the life course. Housing, and particularly the actual place where an individual resides, may be perceived as one of the perimeters that frame those possibilities and choices. However, the lived experience does not merely comprise of factors experienced factual, but it is always an invariably changing interpretation events, occurrences and possibilities intertwining the past, present and future. Thus, whilst the experience itself is rooted in a certain time, place and individual, its interpretation is simultaneously dependent on the subjective as well as the shared perceptions related to spatio-temporal, cultural and situational factors. With the passing of time, in later life, these experiences and encounters accumulate to form a myriad web of linkages. Whilst they are individual and unique, they are simultaneously shaped by culturally shared conceptions and perceptions. This study explores the multiple ways these interpretations of the lived experiences and expectations are moulded into stories,

and how these stories act as guides in navigating through the life course. As narratives are viewed as ways of making sense of the world, they are considered as something that hold practical implications in regard to the actual experiences as well as perceptions of the possible of individuals as well as of those whose lives touch upon theirs.

Paula Vasara – My research focuses on the various arrangements of housing and care in later life. I am writing my doctoral thesis by the working title of Exigencies and choices. Narratives of continuities, transitions and turning points on the housing path in older people's life course. Currently, I am working as a university teacher of Social and Public Policy at the Department of Social Sciences and Philosophy at the University of Jyväskylä, Finland. In addition, I am involved with a research project Linked Ageing: Interdependencies in Housing and Care in the Course of Later Life (LinkAGE, 2016–2020) and a member of the Research Group on Care Policy (CARPO).

Panel 48

Embracing One's Own Narrative

📅 Saturday, April 29 / ⌚ 15:30–17:00 / 🏠 SR C1

Chair: *Eva-Maria Trinkaus*

Participants: *Ellen Matlok-Ziemann, Juanita Crider,
Emma Domínguez-Rué*

Ellen Matlok-Ziemann

“Blue with Age”: Dis- and Dys-appearance of the Body in Eudora Welty’s “A Worn Path”

In the past few decades aging has been prominently addressed in literary texts, not only to shed light on ageist discourse in so-called “decline narratives”, but also to open up positive possibilities of representations of old women and men, and to gain a better understanding of aging. Numerous authors have discussed and reflected on the aging process and old age in, for instance, “Reifungsromanen”, to explore what it means to grow and be old.

Many studies have identified, questioned, and criticized negative social and cultural constructions of the aging body, but very few analyses take into account the specificities of the aging/aged body. While the aging body is always a social construct, it is also at the same time a biological organism, something that often has been overlooked. This paper addresses, on the one hand, the failure and fear to take into account the biological body, as this seems to corroborate ageist discourse, and, on the other hand, the opportunity that the taking into account of the specificities of the aging body offers for a more nuanced understanding of representations of old women. My analysis of Eudora Welty’s short story “A Worn Path” will illustrate how the inclusion of the material body in the investigation of representations of aging can overcome the binary of decline narratives and narratives of “successful aging.” Drawing on Maurice Merleau-Ponty,

Simone de Beauvoir, and Drew Leder's phenomenological investigations, my reading of Welty's short story will provide a different and a more fruitful understanding of representations of aging women.

Ellen Marlok-Ziemann – I hold an MA degree in Sociology and a PhD in American Literature. My interests include History of Science, Feminist Philosophy, and Aging Studies. I am currently working on representations of old women in American fiction. I work as a research coordinator at the Department of Education, Uppsala University, Sweden.

Juanita Crider

“We’re all getting old. Not old-old, but older.” African American Women Embracing Aging in Contemporary Fiction

Leni Marshall argues in “Age Becomes US: Bodies and Gender in time” that throughout the life course people have a variety of “experiences of aging and old age” (19). The physical signs of aging that are most often scripted on the body are just one way many women denote aging. For some women the determining factor for aging self-perception is simply reaching a chronological milestone. Whereas others may rely solely on cultural messaging or the advent of menopause. However, an intersectional analysis of aging self-perceptions offers further insight into how cultural factors may determine how African American women validate and identify their aging.

This project uses the literature of contemporary African American author, Terri McMillan, to examine the cultural functions of age in the black community among women. Several of McMillan's novels offer characters over 55 whose self-perceptions of aging create narratives about the performance of age within the African American community. I argue that many of these characters function as womanists, as defined by Alice Walker as,

“women committed to survival and wholeness of entire people,” (xi). Thus womanism serves as a resource as they create stories about the performance of age which they share among their community of family, friends and fictive kin. These stories, often intersecting with racial pride, function as a body of knowledge which inspires these characters to unprecedented awareness of self.

Juanita M. Crider currently works full time as the Program Advisor for the Purdue University Black Cultural Center. She is also a doctoral student in American Studies at Purdue who has completed course work and is preparing for qualifying exams in August 2016. Her research interests are examining representations of aging/elder black females in contemporary black feminist literature, film television and visual culture with special focus on representations of elder sexuality. Her dissertation plans are to use contemporary black feminist literature, film, and television to explore what “spaces” popular culture allows for post-menopausal African American women. Juanita earned a B. S. in History from Ball State University and an M.A. in American Studies from Purdue University. She also holds a graduate certificate in Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies from Purdue.

Emma Domínguez-Rué

(Re)Writing History: Life Stories and Collective Identity in Markus Zusak’s *The Book Thief*

This paper attempts at analyzing the role of reading, writing and (re) writing one’s story in the novel *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak by focusing on the notion of life story and how it relates to (and actually becomes) history, together with interrogating their interaction with individual and collective identities. Published in 2005 and released into a major film in 2013 after its enormous success, *The Book Thief* is set in a small Bavarian town during World War II and is partly inspired by the memories of the author’s parents. With Death as its unusual narrator, the novel tells the story of ten-year old Liesel Meminger, who is given to a foster family, the Hubermanns. Liesel is taught to read by her foster father and ends up being a voracious reader, to the point of stealing books from the luxurious library of the mayor’s wife and even rescuing books from the flames during book burnings. The Hubermanns decide to hide a young German Jew in their basement, Max Vandenburg, an event that forces the family to reassess fundamental notions about love, friendship, loyalty and nationality, and which will eventually catalyze major changes in their lives. Max’s friendship with Liesel and helps her in the process of reading herself into existence: his present to Liesel, a scribbled booklet called *The Standover Man*, literally re-writes (or rather writes over) the Bible of the Third Reich, *Mein Kampf*. At the same time, it reveals the life story of Max

Vandenburg and symbolically recovers the unspoken history of German Jews massacred in concentration camps. Max and Liesel's life-stories endorse their identity against a background of death and destruction while telling the untold stories of those who did not live to do so, in turn rewriting one of the darkest episodes of German history.

Emma Domínguez-Rué graduated in English at the University of Lleida (Catalunya, Spain) and studied an MA in English Literature at Swansea University (UK). Her PhD dissertation was read in 2005 and published in 2011 with the title *Of Lovely Tyrants and Invisible Women: Invalidism as Metaphor in the Fiction of Ellen Glasgow* (Berlin: Logos Verlag). Aside from American Studies, she has also worked on ageing studies, narratives of disease, contemporary detective fiction, and Victorian and Gothic fiction under a feminist perspective. She teaches in the Department of English at the University of Lleida and she is member of ENAS (European Network of Ageing Studies) and SiforAge. She has recently co-edited two volumes on *Ageing Studies: Ageing and Technology: Perspectives from the Social Sciences* (transcript 2016, with Linda Nierling) and *Literary Creativity and the Older Woman Writer: A Collection of Essays* (Peter Lang 2016, with Núria Casado-Gual and Brian Worsfold).

Panel 49

Reviews & Reflections

📅 Saturday, April 29 / ⌚ 15:30–17:00 / 🏠 SR C2

Chair: Dagmar Wallenstorfer

Participants: María del Rocío González Torres,
Susanne Katharina Christ, Mariángel Soláns

María del Rocío González Torres

Revisiting Old Age Through the Eyes of the Visitor in the Novel *Liza's England* by Pat Barker (1986)

The aim of this paper is to explore the novel *Liza's England* by the British novelist Pat Barker. In this analysis, I intend to examine the exposure to old age of Stephen, a social worker that visits Liza Wright, an eighty-four-year-old woman, who must be moved from her home. Through this relation, both characters, Liza and Stephen, experience a personal catharsis. Stephen learns to understand the elder in their physical, social and emotional context, whereas Liza gets to reflect about the past in what Robert N. Butler coined Life Review. Both characters illustrate the necessity to confront old age and youth from different standpoints that can help to connect bridges towards biased conceptions of what actually means to be young and old in current society. In this sense, Stephen, who is an outsider in Liza's world, will get to describe the ageing woman who he sees with a changing perspective as he pays her visits more often. For this, the house is presented as an intimate place for interaction, where the younger can learn how the elder relies on the past as a way of self-representation through the possessions and the dwelling place. Both

Susanne Katharina Christ

The Literary and Cultural Crisis of Dementia: J. Bernlef's Novel *Out of Mind* (1989) as a Corrective to Medial Representations of Dementia

the younger and the elder eventually understand how ageing is not a dead road, but a new path to rediscover.

María del Rocío González Torres was born in Córdoba, Spain. She has a degree in English Studies from the University of Córdoba, and she received her Master's degree in Multilingual and Intercultural Communication at the University of Málaga, where she is currently doing her PhD on Material Memory in Contemporary Fiction about Ageing. Her thesis deals with the personal bonding that old people establish with their material possessions. Furthermore, her research focuses on female British novelists in their attempt to give voice to women coming of age within the setting of their material and personal mementos. She is also interested in memories studies, environmental psychology and spatial studies.

Skimming through recent newspaper articles, it seems that dementia lends itself well to the scenarios of crisis: it has been termed “loss of self” and “social death”. But what exactly is it that makes dementia a crisis? And for whom? If we look into fictional literature, we find that dementia with its inherent impairments of cognitive and physical abilities is a crisis probing the boundaries of the human – but can also become a crisis of narration itself. In my presentation, I seek to find out how fictional literature portrays dementia, and what effects and functions this has in a wider cultural context. To this end, Bernlef's 1984 classic “Out of Mind” has been selected for analysis. Bernlef employs auto diegetic first person narration in the evocative present, which, imitating the effects of dementia on narration, progressively deteriorates – but at the same time remains full of metaphors – and thus allows an imaginative insight into the qualia of a character suffering from the disease. The aim is to give a detailed narratological description of this special type of narration that strikes as unintentionally unreliable and examine the effects and rhe-

torical functions this might have (Phelan). I argue that the chosen perspective shows how fictional literature can add a surplus to existing images of dementia – counterbalancing stereotypical views of dementia as crisis of a culture that fears for its core values such as cognitive functioning, autonomy and productivity, and is thus prone to stigmatizing people with mental disabilities (Sontag), especially when they become unable to perform their “narrative identity”.

Susanne K. Christ is currently working on her PhD project “Forms and Functions of the Representation of Dementia in Contemporary Literature” at the International Graduate Centre for the Study of Culture (GCSC) at Justus Liebig University Gießen, Germany, supervised by Prof. Ansgar Nünning. She is a member of the working group “Age(ing) in society” at GGS, of “Europadialog” at Ruhr University Bochum, and of Frankfurter Forum Interdisziplinäre Alternsforschung (FFIA). She works with people with dementia, caregivers, in hospitals and local initiatives promoting inclusion, and founded a charity choir that sings with people with dementia.

Mariángel Soláns

Confronting Finitude. The Life Review in *Bruno's Dream* by Iris Murdoch

The passing of time confronts us with the meaning of finitude. Time is perceived in a different way as we approach death. Therefore, old age is understood as a time of remembrance and recollection that involves a return to the past. Narrative allows the ageing person to reconstruct and evaluate their personal memories, giving a new meaning to his/her life experiencing a process of “life review”, a term coined by Robert N. Butler. Although reminiscence in aged persons is frequently treated as insignificant and has pejorative connotations of senility, it represents, according to some gerontologists, a beneficial vital process. I propose to explore this aspect of ageing as reflected in Iris Murdoch's *Bruno's Dream*, where the main character, a man in his nineties, will be immersed in the construction of his personal identity by experiencing his personal process of life review. In his case, this practice also plays a therapeutic role, as this act of introspection implies a new consciousness of unresolved past conflicts, which he can now survey in retrospect, sort out and integrate in his present life. Thanks to the life review process, he is able to decipher the message that his wife attempted to transmit to him at the time of her death. Reminiscence also serves a social function in his life – as he can share his personal memories with others – and it prepares Bruno for death.

Mariángel Soláns holds a Degree in English, and has been awarded a Ph.D. with a thesis entitled “Representations of Aging in the Narrative of Iris Murdoch”. Her research focuses on aging and the work of Irish Murdoch. She has published articles on Murdoch and Alzheimer’s, as well as on the writer’s controversial biopic. She is a part-time lecturer and online instructor at the Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia (Spain) and its Centre for Distance Language Learning (CUID), where she has coordinating responsibilities.

Session J

Panel 50

The Contribution of the Humanities to the Interdisciplinary Study of Ageing

📅 Sunday, April 30 / ⌚ 11:00–12:30 / 🏠 SR KW 12

Chair: *Peter Derkx*

Participants: *Hyung Wook Park, Marlene Goldman, Hanne Laceulle*

The study of ageing involves many different disciplinary angles. From the key note speeches and paper sessions at the IAGG, GSA and (to a lesser extent) BSG conferences, one gets the impression that the interdisciplinary gerontological field is dominated by biomedical scientists, psychologists and sociologists. In the highly visible public debate about pensions and health care costs this dominance is complemented by economists and demographers. Humanities scholars take part in these conferences and debates, but their voices often do not seem to be regarded as essential. What is it exactly they have to offer?

The aim of this symposium is not just to present contributions from the humanities to the study of ageing, but to reflect on, and discuss the specific contribution the humanities can make to gerontology. In this way the symposium takes a meta-perspective. In order not to get stuck in unenlightening generalities we focus on three central humanistic disciplines: history, literary scholarship and philosophy (especially ethics).

Hyung Wook Park

The Contribution of History

After a very short introduction by the chair, Park in his paper 'The Contribution of History' will focus on the contribution of history to gerontology. When it comes to understanding the background of our current narratives and representations of ageing (the life course), and the dominance of certain topics over others in our ageing debates, he argues that we need to re-discover past perspectives on these subjects. Perspectives that can fuel the necessary interdisciplinary, scientific, political and public dialogues, from which our current and future ageing policies can benefit. To understand what the different historical perspectives on the life course and ageing in particular entail, existing histories of ageing and the way we studied the history of ageing before, need critical evaluation and reinterpretation. Park will explore the historiographical problems in general. He will then discuss how the historical disciplines can contribute to the study of ageing by being critically engaged with its contradictions and inconsistencies which engender ambiguous consequences for our current perception of ageing and old age.

Dr. **Hyung Wook Park** is an assistant professor of history at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. He has studied the history of gerontology for the past years, which has resulted in his first book, *Old Age, New Science: Gerontologists and Their Biosocial Visions* (2016). His research revolves around the cultural and philosophical implications and relations of scientific ideas and practices, especially in the field of ageing studies. Currently, he is studying the relevance of ageing research to the construction of twentieth century biomedicine.

Marlene Goldman

The Contribution of Literary Scholarship

Goldman in her presentation 'The Contribution of Literary Scholarship' argues that novelists, poets, and dramatists play a profound role in any period's understandings of illness and disease. In the case of late-onset dementia and Alzheimer's disease, language—specifically, clusters of familiar metaphors and literary genres such as tragedy and the Gothic—constitutes the central medium for the ongoing interplay between biology and culture. The idea that fiction, more than medicine, is responsible for shaping our concepts of disease is central to Goldman's forthcoming book, *Forgotten: Age-Related Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease in Canada*. Her training in literary studies enables her to step back from authoritative and popular narratives about aging and age-related diseases, to consider how they are narratively constructed, whose interests they serve, and, on occasion, to challenge their Gothic and apocalyptic pronouncements.

Dr. **Marlene Goldman** is a professor in the Department of English at the University of Toronto. Her recent research focuses on critical age studies. She is the author of *Paths of Desire* (University of Toronto Press, 1997), *Rewriting Apocalypse* (McGill-Queen's Press, 2005), *(Dis)Possession* (McGill-Queen's Press 2011), and *Forgotten: Age-Related Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease in Canada* (forthcoming McGill-Queen's Press 2017).

Hanne Laceulle

The Contribution of Philosophy

The third paper by Laceulle, 'The Contribution of Philosophy', focuses on what gerontology might learn from moral philosophical discourses. She argues that problems with current cultural narratives about later life, such as their one-sided equation of aging with decline, or their inability to help people deal with inevitable existential vulnerability in a viable manner, could be countered by alternative cultural narratives based on an ethical discourse focusing on the optimization of people's ability for moral agency, i.e. self-realization. The paper will present a philosophical view inspired by authors such as Paul Ricoeur, Charles Taylor, Axel Honneth, Hilde Lindemann and Diana Meyers, of what self-realization and moral agency in later life could amount to, and which conditions should be present in order to help people make the best of themselves as they age.

Dr. **Hanne Laceulle** is an assistant professor at the University of Humanistic Studies in Utrecht, the Netherlands. Her focus is on ethical perspectives concerning the life course, with an emphasis on self-realization, moral agency, autonomy, authenticity and virtue, as a follow up on her PhD project that culminated in the dissertation *Becoming who you are. Aging, self-realization and cultural narratives about later life* (2016).

Panel 51

IT/Media III

📅 Sunday, April 30 / ⌚ 11:00–12:30 / 🏠 SR KW 21

Chair: Katharina Trinkaus

Participants: Artemio Baigorri, Santiago Cambero Rivero,
Anniina Lavikainen, Cecilie Givskov

Artemio Baigorri & Santiago Cambero Rivero

Senior Volunteers as a New Paradigm of Aging in the Telematic Society. Case Study of AVIMEX

This paper is based on the hypothesis that the older adults remain active and productive citizens. The hypothesis is based on the empirical evidence stemming from the social capital after retirement and engagement in volunteer activities at NFP (not-for-profit) organizations. Therefore, this sociological research shows that the current and emerging generations of senior citizens are users/consumers of public resources (health, welfare, pensions, etc.), together with the community resources provided by society and family, and as such, have positive impacts in Spain.

These seniors maintain social networks and promote a sense of value and self-worth. As such, they represent the driving force of the social change in relation to their potential as age group and their adaptation to changes in their community. This proactive and socially responsible behavior can be seen from the phenomenon of seniors' volunteering in the field of ICT (Information and communication technologies) to achieve the e-Inclusion (means both accessible/inclusive ICT "no one is left behind" in enjoying the benefits of digital technologies).

According to the results supporting the indicated thesis, the ICT enhances social innovation and civic empowerment among the older adults, while at the same time it increases their rights, opportunities and skills due

to the usage of technological tools. The research has focused on senior volunteers coming from various backgrounds. These volunteers have put their human qualities and their professional or academic experiences acquired in the field of ICTs at usage for the benefit of disadvantaged groups. This is a pattern of active and inclusive aging embodied by some older adults involved in AVIMEX – translated into Association of Senior Computer Volunteer in Extremadura – as a new paradigm of aging in the telematic society.

Artemio Baigorri – Professor in Sociology (Faculty of Economic Sciences and Business, University of Extremadura, Spain). PhD Sociology (Universidad de Extremadura, Spain); BA in Politic Sciences and Sociology (Social Psychology) and undergraduate study in Communication Sciences. Author/co-author about one hundred of books and reports, and published numerous articles in journals. Visiting profesor/researcher at UABC, UNAM and Tecnológico de Monterrey (México), Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Université de Le Havre (France), University of Illinois at Chicago (USA), Universidade de Evora (Portugal). Research Group Coordinator “Social analysis of reality” in the Universidad of Extremadura. Santiago Cambero Rivero – Lecturer in Sociology (Faculty of Education, Universidad de Extremadura, Spain). PhD Sociology (Universidad de Extremadura, Spain). BA in Politic Sciences and Sociology BA (Sociology) (UNED, Spain). Master of Social Gerontology (Universidad de Barcelona, Spain). Research Group Member “Social analysis of reality” (Universidad de Extremadura, Spain).

Anniina Lavikainen

What Kind of Narratives Finnish Media Tells of Living with Hearing Impairment in Old Age?

The aim: The article focuses on revealing how media represents one of the most common health problems in old age, hearing loss. Article takes as its focal point the question of visibility of the heterogeneity of older persons, both with congenital and acquired hearing impairments, in media. What positions are provided for those born disabled when talking about old age hearing loss? Or is becoming disabled in later life depicted in media as something fundamentally different?

The data: Finnish newspaper stories covering the topic of age-related hearing loss and counseling activities of local hearing associations during a 4-year period (2009–2012) were included in the data.

The methods: The data was analyzed by using visual narrative analysis (Riessman 2008); i.e. both the newspaper texts and pictures in the stories were analyzed.

The results: The preliminary analysis reveals narratives that approach hearing loss in old age from different viewpoints, such as from individual perspective, societal perspective and from the perspective of different interest groups (civil society, hearing aid manufacturers). Hearing technology is represented as a ‘savior’ to hearing problems and is given the main role in the newspaper stories. Even though hearing technology is emphasized in the written texts, the pictures in the stories highlight mostly persons. The

Cecilie Givskov

Media Lives of Older Women – Materiality and Ageing

meta-narrative in the stories depict hearing loss in old age as unrecognized health problem and societal challenge.

Anniina Lavikainen's PhD research focuses on researching the heterogeneous group of older persons with congenital and acquired hearing impairments and making visible ageist practices they face in Finnish social and health care services. She has over 10 years of experience working and volunteering in Finnish NGO's. During her career, she has conducted several research & development projects concerning persons with hearing disabilities.

media are characterized by being both things/technology and carriers of communicative content that connects us to the outside world. In comparison to other technologies of the home – as staircases, water boilers and stoves – media constitute an overtly dynamic and currently rapidly changing field. The co-creative capacities of media materiality in shaping the everyday in rhythms and routines, is a critical focal point to the understanding of the experience of ageing in a mediatizing society where the rapid speed of technological development and pressure to replace and adapt media intersect with the decline in physical and sensory abilities. Women on average live longer than men, which is the reason why they are also more exposed to experiences of decline in life quality as an effect of ageing; and thus have more years to independently struggle with media. This presentation explores how media as things, technologies, interfaces and qualities of sound, influence the experience of ageing among old independently living women between 78 and 89 years of age. The questions raised in this paper include: how does the media materiality act upon the experience of ageing in the old women's lives, and how does media materiality contribute to the culturing of the ageing body – to the construction of oneself as 'old'? Life historical interviews and activity based observations, has served to set the

perspective within the experience of ageing. The study participants were self-reliant – at the same time dealing with different kinds of physical and social losses in a phase of increasing dependency.

From 2013–2017, **Cecilie Givskov**, PhD, was part of a research project on ageing in media and older people's media use funded by the VELUX Foundations, based at the University of Copenhagen. She has published on aspects related to the mediatization and ageing of society: digital media and social diversity among older women; and media as materiality in the daily lives of old women. Previously, she published research on institutional and organizational transformations related to globalization of Danish film and media culture.

Panel 52

The Significance of Creativity to Aging Well

📅 Sunday, April 30 / ⌚ 11:00–12:30 / 🏠 Conference Hall

Chair: *Joachim Duyndam*

Participants: *Aagje Swinnen, Kate de Medeiros, Anja Machielse,
Joachim Duyndam*

The core hypothesis of this interdisciplinary panel is that creativity significantly furthers aging well, particularly when elderly people are faced with the adversities of senescence. Creativity helps ‘to overcome fate’, or at least to cope with some of its blows, or to just adapt to the circumstances and live with it. Creativity is taken here not only in the sense of *poiësis*: handicraft, making works of art, painting, making music, writing drama, poetry, novels, etc. – but also in the sense of *praxis*: finding new or other (unexpected, surprising, unpredicted) ways of acting and thinking when responding to the challenges of one’s situation. In classical Aristotelian terms: creative acting and thinking take the actual in its potentiality. Creativity approaches the given reality as (only) one of multiple possibilities. Hence, it opens up new or other possible meanings or ‘worlds’. For instance, ‘playing’ opens and investigates possible handlings in given circumstances for elderly and it thereby helps to make their lives more meaningful, as Swinnen argues in her contribution. Machielse shows how older people living alone, often labelled as ‘socially isolated’, create habits and rituals for themselves to participate (in a way) in public life, not

to feel isolated, and to live a life that is meaningful to themselves. In his paper, Duyndam relates creativity to resilience. Responding resiliently to adversity, or more generally to the pressure of circumstances, entails creativity. One needs a meaning frame that opens possibilities – that makes the actual potential – to live a meaningful life.

The three papers of this panel share a meaning perspective: they take aging well as meaningful aging. The panel is interdisciplinary in that its papers combine philosophical thought with empirical findings.

Aagje Swinnen and Kate de Medeiros

“Play” and People Living with Dementia: A Humanities-based Inquiry of TimeSlips and the Alzheimer’s Poetry Project

Following on research that intends to reclaim the person behind dementia through models of subjectivity that depart from the Cartesian subject, this paper suggests to apply Huizinga’s framework of homo ludens or “man the player.” “Play,” according to this Dutch historian, is at the heart of human activity and what gives meaning to life. Despite research on “play” across the life course, “play” in the context of dementia is relatively new and is often more focused on humor. “Play” is not used to infantilize or trivialize people living with dementia, but as a way to explore new potential for expression, meaning making, and relationship building in later life. Using humanistic inquiry, we consider “play” in two participatory arts programs (Timeslips and the Alzheimer’s Poetry Project) at two residential care facilities (Scharwyerveld, n=11 and De Beyart, n=14) in the Netherlands. Our data analysis resulted in three major observations regarding play and the participants: learning to play again, the power of playing together, and experiences of play and joy. We discuss how imagination and memory coexist and feed into each other in “play”; how “play”

enables the facilitator and participants to interact with mutual acknowledgement, respect, and trust; how “playing” involved letting go of what is “real,” feeling comfortable in being one’s self, and becoming immersed in a particular creative activity; and how this type of adult “play” speaks to aesthetic qualities that one has learned to appreciate throughout the life course. We suggest that the notion of “play” may be a helpful framework for future research into innovative arts-based approaches to dementia care.

Aagje Swinnen is an Assistant Professor at the Center for Gender and Diversity of Maastricht University and Socrates Endowed Chair in International Humanism, and the Art of Living at the University of Humanistic Studies in Utrecht, the Netherlands. Swinnen has published on the workings of age ideologies and the intersection of age and other markers of social difference such as gender, sexuality, and disability in a wide variety of cultural texts in, e.g., *The Gerontologist*, *Dementia*, and *Journal of Aging Studies*. She co-edited the volumes *Aging, Performance and Stardom: Doing Age on*

Anja Machielse

Creative Coping Strategies

in recent years many interventions have been developed to address social isolation among older people. Most interventions are hardly effective though, because they aim at enhanced social participation or network development. This paper shows that many socially isolated older adults have no need for such interventions. Their social skills are rather inadequate and they see few possibilities of changing their situation. However, in daily life they develop habits and rituals to meet their social needs. They find ways to participate in public life without conforming to the unwritten rules and regulations of modern society. This enables them to live a life that they themselves experience as meaningful. The conversant character of the habits and rituals developed by them makes them feel comfortable in a social environment that does not absorb them as a matter of course.

This paper offers insight into the creative strategies that socially isolated older persons use to deal with their situation. To this end, a qualitative research method with a strongly participative approach was used. The participants (n=43, ranging from ages 55 to 94, all living in the city of Rotterdam, the Netherlands) were situated as 'experts' who have unique knowledge about their situation. Giddens' structuration theory was used to analyse the strategies chosen by these socially isolated seniors. The study concludes that the creative solutions that they have found for themselves

the Stage of Consumerist Culture (with J.A. Stotesbury, 2012) and *Popularizing Dementia: Public Expressions and Representations of Forgetfulness* (with M. Schweda, 2015). Committed to stimulate dialogue among disciplines, Swinnen is co-founder and current deputy chair of the European Network in Aging Studies as well as co-editor of the new journal *Age, Culture, Humanities*.

Kate de Medeiros (Associate Professor, the Robert H. and Nancy J. Blayney Professor Gerontology) received her PhD in gerontology from the University of Maryland Baltimore County in 2006. Her research interests are concerned with cultural structures affecting the experience of aging and the construction of self, such as autobiographical writing, as well as the personhood in people with dementia. In 2008, de Medeiros received one of only four Brookdale Leadership in Aging Research. Her research has also been funded by the Alzheimer's Association and the National Institute of Aging. In addition to numerous research articles, she recently published *Narrative Gerontology in Research and Practice*.

often intensify their isolation, but at the same time offer a possibility to live a life that they experience as meaningful.

Anja Machielse is associate professor of Humanistic Meaning and Ageing Well at the University of Humanistic Studies in Utrecht, the Netherlands. Currently, she holds the endowed Professorship 'Empowerment of Vulnerable Older Adults' at this University. She is specializing in research on issues concerning vulnerable older people (especially loneliness and social isolation), informal care and volunteering, community building and meaning in life. Besides, she works in the development and implementation of innovative forms of participatory research designs. She published several books and papers on social contacts and social isolation (e.g. *Journal of Gerontological Social Work*), she co-edited *Social Isolation in Modern Society* (Routledge, 2006), and she is the editor of the *Social Intervention: Theory and Practice*, a scientific journal on social intervention.

Joachim Duyndam

Creative Mimesis

For centuries, mimesis (originally from the ancient Greek) has been the definition of art. In the European tradition, art is supposed to imitate or resemble 'nature', i.e. reality, the world 'as it is'. The legendary ancient Greek artist Zeuxis painted such authentic grapes that the birds came down to his painting to pick them. In modern times, however, art has become more and more romantic, no longer directed at depicting nature but at expressing the inspiration and the genius of the artist. By that, the meaning of mimesis has extended to imagining, performing, showing, witnessing, rendering, interpreting – the world 'as it could be'.

Both the traditional and the modern sense of mimesis refer to meaning: what is at stake in the work of art, how, and why? Qua meaning there is a parallel or analogy between the *poiëses* of the work of art and the *praxis* of daily life: what is at stake in my life, how, and why? In our daily lives, meaning is supported, afforded, or produced by the meaning frames provided by our philosophies of life, our world views. In this paper it is argued that creativity in acting and thinking depends on the meaning frames of our philosophies of life, particularly on the capacity of mimesis in our meaning frame. It will be demonstrated that, consequently, the capacity of creative mimesis enables the capacity of resiliently responding.

Joachim Duyndam is Professor of Humanism and Philosophy at the University of Humanistic Studies in Utrecht, the Netherlands. He chairs the university's research program Humanist Traditions, Meaning in Life, and Aging Well. His publications are, from humanistic and philosophical perspectives, on themes such as mimesis, empathy, enjoyment, and resilience – for instance: Humanism, Resilience, and the Hermeneutics of Exemplary Figures. *Essays in the Philosophy of Humanism* 20 (2), 2012.

Panel 53

Hags/Witches/Women

📅 Sunday, April 30 / ⌚ 11:00–12:30 / 🏠 SR B1

Chair: Fátima Sofía Gamper

Participants: Brenda O'Connell, Saskia Fürst,
Marta Miquel-Baldellou

Brenda O'Connell

Samuel Beckett's “Hysterical Old Hags”: The Ageing Maternal Feminine in the Radio Play *All That Fall*

This paper considers what Samuel Beckett, a male twentieth-century writer, has to ‘say’ about age and the ageing process. With the rise of the emerging field of age/ageing studies and cultural gerontology, there is now a critical need to reassess cultural representations of ageing, particularly with regard to women and ageing. In this regard, I consider Beckett's representation of the ageing, menopausal female character, Maddy Rooney, in his radio play *All That Fall* (1957). Symbolically, women start to experience ageing around the age of fifty, linked to the biological marker of menopause, viewed negatively in our culture, which now plays an unprecedented role in the constitution of social identities and realities. Women are subject to ‘double ageing’ or ‘multiple ageing’, as Kathleen Woodward argues, as they are aged by culture far earlier than men. This paper argues that *All That Fall*, a play which is concerned with the end of the possibility of reproduction, the maternal ageing feminine and the masculine violence which threatens it, enabled Beckett to get inside the consciousness of a female persona, via the medium of radio and the

fable of a post-menopausal matron in a post-lapsarian world. Maddy Rooney emerges as a complex experience of embodiment. Old age is, as Helen Small remarks 'a particular kind of contingency – neither fully a contingency, nor quite a necessity. Until or unless we die, we cannot but continue to age'. In his depiction of ageing, Beckett presents his characters as nearing the end but that end remains resolutely elusive.

Brenda O'Connell is a PhD researcher and tutor at Maynooth University. Her thesis: 'Age Matters: Matricide, Matrixial Theory and the Ageing Female Body in Samuel Beckett's work' is funded by the John Hume Scholarship. She has published on Beckett and Performance Art, theatre reviews and recently published an essay on Amanda Coogan's performance art in a specially commissioned catalogue for the Royal Hibernian Academy, Dublin.

Saskia Fürst

Mature Black Women in Contemporary US Literature, Artwork, and Print Advertisements

3lack women's bodies are not always theirs to control, to delineate, or to manipulate within the West, economically, historically, politically, and socially. Nevertheless, these women renegotiate control, contest boundaries, and redefine the representations of their cultural bodies through their everyday lives, their creative works, and their story-telling. Centering on the Pan-African movement that gained renewed appeal for African Americans in the 1980s, the empowering solidarity with people from Africa and displaced by the transatlantic slave trade inspired a particular form of artistic re-memory. This introduced Africanisms and the ancestor figure into representations of elderly Black women in the US. Triangulating specific Black literature, artistic works, and the public recognition of older Black women activists in the US, this paper discusses how positive and diverse representations of mature Black womanhood have influenced the Dove's Campaign For Real Beauty in 2004 and Pro-Age in 2007. Admittedly, the representations of mature Black womanhood in these advertising campaigns are subjected to a triple discrimination (age, gender, race) resulting in a form of 'White-washing' their bodies. However, this paper proposes that the efforts of transcoding representations of female Blackness by African American artists and writers in the 1970s and 80s have infiltrated print advertising campaigns of the late 20th and early 21st centuries, creating a space for empowerment.

Saskia Fürst is a University Assistant (PhD candidate) in the English Department at the University of Salzburg. She holds a B.A. in German and Women & Gender Studies from Rice University (USA) and a Diploma in English and American Studies from the University of Graz (Austria). Her article “The Sexy, Mature Black Woman in US Advertisements” is in *Racial and Ethnic Identities in the Media* (2016).

Marta Miquel-Baldellou

‘The stock character of a middle-aged woman?’ Rediscovering *The Roman Spring of Mrs. Stone* through Age and Gender Performance

In her article “Performing Aging / Performing Crisis”, Jodi Brooks refers to the figure of the aging actress in films of the 1950s and 1960s as doubly marked both as an aging woman and as an aging celebrity. As Brooks argues, the relevance of these female characters lies in the fact that they resist being positioned as a figure of loss and reject to play a socially sanctioned role as aging women, even though they finally find themselves surrendering to the part that gendered discourses of aging have assigned them, thus exemplifying Simone de Beauvoir’s figure of “the Other – that is to say the person I am for the outsider – who is old and that Other is myself.” The character of the aging actress also epitomises what Anne Davis Basting has described as aging as a performative act both on-stage and off-stage, and Margaret Gullette has referred to as ‘age as performance in everyday life’ and ‘age as performed by actors.’ As happens also with the transgression of gender roles, and as Aagje Swinnen points out, the fact of not acting one’s age can become a promising enterprise, since, as is the case with the figure of

these aging actresses, their portrayal may be interpreted as pathological – as they are often ridiculed for not acting their age – but also as highly subversive, thus enacting a resistance against the constructed discourses of aging from which they emanate.

In the tradition of characters representing the aging actress, such as Norma Desmond and Margo Channing, and through theoretical tenets of age and gender performance, this article aims at approaching the character of Karen Stone in Tennessee Williams' novel *The Roman Spring of Mrs. Stone*, through a dual interpretation of this aging actress as both reactionary and subversive, and through a diachronic analysis of this character from Tennessee Williams's novel published in 1950 to José Quintero's 1961 film adaptation and Robert Allan Ackerman's 2003 TV film remake.

Dr. **Marta Miquel-Baldellou** holds a BA in English Philology, an MA in Change and Diversity in English Studies, and an International Doctorate in English Studies from the University of Lleida. In the course of her doctoral studies, she was granted a four-year government scholarship (FI-AGAUR), and a doctoral scholarship for research stays abroad (BE2 –AGAUR), which was carried out at the University of Leicester, in the UK, and allowed her to be awarded an International PhD. She has worked as an Assistant Lecturer at the English Department of the University of Lleida, where she has lectured in literary studies and in English as a foreign language. She is a member of the Dedal-Lit Research Group and a member of ENAS, and she has recently taken part in a three-year government-funded project entitled "Aging and Gender in Contemporary Literary Creativity in English" (FFI2012 –37050).

Panel 54

Contesting Narratives of Decline

📅 Sunday, April 30 / ⌚ 11:00–12:30 / 🏠 SR C1

Chair: Marilyn Lim

Participants: Núria Mina-Riera, Anita Wohlmann, Jitka Ondrušková

Nuria Mina Riera

The Transformation of the Self-Perception of Ageing at Middle Age following Parental Loss: Two Case Studies in Poetry

Parental loss at middle age is said to be a life-changing experience, as it triggers an increased awareness of the adult children's own sense of mortality. Consequently, such bereaved middle-aged individuals often see prospective old age from a pessimistic stand point. The loss of one's mother is particularly traumatic, especially for daughters, as it implies the loss of their very first intimate relationship with another human being. The loss of one's father, notwithstanding, can also have similar negative psychological effects on the bereaved children. The prelude to a parent's passing away is also highly relevant for the adult children's stance towards the ageing process, as the feeling of loss gradually becomes a mirroring into the ageing / dying process of the parent. The specific concern is the possible loss of agency and identity in old age.

In order to look into such matters, the following paper is going to compare poems about parental loss written by two women poets from the same generation, namely, Carol Rumens (1944) and Lorna Crozier (1948). The paper is also going to analyse the evolution of the self-portrayal of ageing in Rumens' and Crozier's female personae in both writers' literary careers, focusing on parental loss, on the one hand, and on the ageing / dying process of their parents in which they mirror their own ageing process, on the other. Special attention will be paid to Carol Rumens' poetry collections, *Blind Spots* (2008) and *De Chirico's Threads* (2010), which remain largely unstudied, as well as to Rumens' latest poetry collection, *Animal People* (2016). Ultimately, the paper aims at discussing in what ways different representations of parental demise and loss can form complex narratives of ageing which account for the transformation of the self-perception of ageing at middle age.

Núria Mina Riera holds a BA degree in English Philology and a Master's Degree on Teaching English at Secondary School Level, both of them from the University of Lleida (Spain). Currently, she is a Ph.D. candidate of contemporary Canadian poetry and an assistant lecturer at the same university. Her dissertation analyses the process of formation of "the late style" in Lorna Crozier's works from an interdisciplinary approach of aging and ecocritical studies. As a lecturer at the Department of English and Linguistics, she teaches English poetry, 19th and 20th century history of the United Kingdom and Canadian and Australian culture to English-Studies undergraduates.

Anita Wohlmann

The Power of Figurative Language in Ageist Narratives

This contribution aims at exploring an interdisciplinary approach to the study of age and aging by focusing on the intersections of narratives and metaphors. In interweaving a literary close reading with concepts from health humanities, the presentation will focus on the representation of female aging and discuss how limiting cultural narratives can be challenged through figurative language.

Edith Wharton's novella *The Old Maid* (1924) will serve as an example. It is a story about two women who face (and impose on each other) the 'conventional' narrative of age as decline, loneliness, loss and invisibility. Wharton criticizes this narrow narrative by employing metaphors, which offer alternative mini-narratives that undermine the ageism of the society's and the protagonist's values. For example, a clock is introduced early in the novella, which, on the one hand, signals the importance (and coercive power) of time for the female characters; on the other hand, the ormolu clock (which is framed by a representation of a shepherd kissing a young woman) hints at the story's underlying themes of hidden passion, desire and surprise, suggesting that the female characters have options beyond the ageist narrative in which they seem caught.

The paper will suggest how metaphors might provide spaces of agency and resistance where narratives are harmful and limiting. In drawing on metaphor research in health care, the presentation sketches how 'meta-

phorical competence' may contribute to the interdisciplinary fields of Age/Aging Studies and Cultural Gerontology.

Anita Wohlmann is a postdoctoral researcher at Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Germany. Her most recent books are *Serializing Age: Aging and Old Age in TV Series* (2016), co-edited with Maricel Oró Piqueras, and *Aged Young Adults: Age Readings of Contemporary American Novels and Films* (2014). Wohlmann has published on the topics of age, gender, health humanities and life writing in *The Journal of Aging Studies*, *Age Culture Humanities*, *European Journal of Life Writing*, *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*, *Medical Humanities*, *Jahrbuch Medizin und Literatur*.

Jitka Ondrušková

And if we all lived together? Responsibilization for old age and hierarchy of ageing bodies. Film representations of active ageing and dis/ability

The center of my research is the construction of dis/ability of old age in the discourses of active ageing and how certain ageing bodies are excluded/or differently valued from/in the current representations of old age and ageing citizenship. I attempt to link the approach of disability studies and its theoretical concepts to research on age studies, to contemporary cultural representations of old age in particular. Disability studies are designed to study disability as a cultural, social and political phenomenon, and therefore address issues of later life from different perspective. I offer a critical analysis of the film narrative that portrays the issues of disability of old age such as decline of physical and mental abilities. French-German film *Et si on vivait tous ensemble?* (2011, dir. Stéphane Robelin) depicts a story of five ageing friends, who in the light of upcoming problems, decide to move in together. I wish to discuss how seemingly “alternative” or “revolutionary” visions around old age in conflict with stigmatized and stereotypical views not only work as a narrative plot activator, but are transformed to disciplinary mechanism

of “ageing well”, and create a hierarchy of different forms of ageing. Furthermore, I formulate my theses with careful appreciation of intersectional relationship between multiple axes of power and discuss how strategically gender, sexuality and disability are applied.

Jitka Ondrušková – Film and Audio-Visual Culture Studies (2010), Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University; Gender Studies (2014), Faculty of Humanities, Charles University (Prague, Czech Republic). Since September 2016, following doctoral program at the University of Deusto, where I continue my research on film representations of old age and dis/ability, and developing project focused on cultural imaginations of ageing citizenship and neoliberal discourses of ageing politics. University of Deusto (Bilbao, Spain) – PhD student (doctoral program Leisure, Culture and Communication in Human Development) and Early Stage Researcher with support of the European Commission under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie COFUND action (DIRS-COFUND, Gender and Humanities in Times of Crisis research).

Panel 55

Age in Series

📅 Sunday, April 30 / ⌚ 11:00–12:30 / 🏠 SR C2

Chair: *María del Rocío González Torres*

Participants: *Vincent Fröhlich, Pamela Gravagne, Linda Hess*

Vincent Fröhlich

Aging in Serial Perspective: Ellipsis and Process



erial narrations, especially TV-Series, can show the process of aging different from single works. By imitating a synchrony between screen time and reception time and by mirroring the production and broadcasting pauses with ellipsis in the narrated time many TV-Series suggest that we age together with the characters. To a certain degree this is true simply because serial narrations are normally longer than single works. The recipient spends more time with serial works than with single works. Additionally, in the original broadcasting the time is spread over a longer time span: spending together e.g. seven years with the characters in *Mad Men*, e.g. six years with the characters of *Justified* these series are not only about their specific themes but also about growing older in the 1960s (*Mad Men*), maturing or getting slower as a gunslinger (*Justified*).

In my paper, I would like to present the importance of what could be described as a serial off time for some TV-series. These examples suggest a time synchrony, show aging and make it a subject of their world building. Without consideration of this serial off time, the portrayed processes seem too quick, the characters journey to sudden. Supported by examples from the three series *Bloodline*, *Bosch* and *Transparent* I want to show how self-reflexive some TV-series are in the use of time and the presentation of aging. In addition, I want to reflect on the possibilities some serials use by

incorporating the serial off time to show the process of ageing, by simulating and suggesting that we age together with the characters. Nevertheless, I also would like to comment on the missed opportunities and the unexploited potential, which lies in serial narration concerning the subject of aging.

Dr. **Vincent Fröhlich** is a researcher in the DFG-funded research group “Journalliteratur”. He studied at the University of Bonn and Bayreuth and wrote his published master’s thesis about motives and structures of the Arabian Nights in Literature and Film (*1001. Motive und Strukturen aus 1001 Nacht in Filmen und Büchern der Gegenwart*, Münster 2011). He was member at the excellent Graduate Center for the Study of Culture in Giessen and wrote his doctoral thesis about the structural device cliffhanger and the history of serial narration (*Der Cliffhanger und die serielle Narration*, Bielefeld 2015). Most recently, he was an editor at the well known journal *Medienwissenschaft: Rezensionen / Reviews* in Marburg.

Pamela Gravagne

A Posthumanist View of Life and Death as a Continuum through Star Trek

What can watching Star Trek teach us about different ways to understand life and death? How can we use its encounters with the culture and customs of multiple non-human life forms to encourage us to see death not only as departure of the body but as entrance into “zoe,” the ever-present stream of impersonal and inhuman life? In this paper, I explore how the development of posthumanist thought — the idea that humans are embodied and embedded in a complex and ever-evolving biological and technological environment with all sorts of non-human and inhuman entities, each of whom has its own kind of body and its own kind of life and death — is reflected in alternative depictions of living and dying in Star Trek. Drawing on books about the history, development, and future direction of posthumanist theory by scholars such as Katherine Hayles, Cary Wolfe, and Rosi Braidotti, on theories of posthumanism by feminists such as Donna Haraway, Elizabeth Grosz, and Karen Barad, and on studies of how cultural narratives of death affect us all as we age, I examine how the posthumanist concept of life and death as a continuum can redefine our mortality not as lack, but as transposition into plenitude, interconnectedness, and continued becoming. I end by assessing how the expectation of such a transposition could make life, and death, more meaningful for the

aging and the old, and help us all respond to the ageist pressures we may encounter as we consider, and near, our own demise.

Dr. **Pamela Gravagne** teaches courses on aging, gender, film, science and technology, and posthumanism at the University of New Mexico and the University of New Mexico West. She is also a certified Timeslips Storyteller and conducts storytelling groups for people with dementia in New Mexico. She is author of *The Becoming of Age* and of the recent chapters, “The Spectrum of Desire” and “An Appetite for Life,” and of the article, “The Magic of Cinema.”

Linda Hess

A Queer Look at Aging: Challenging Heteronormative Narratives of the Life Course

my paper will bring together the fields of age/aging studies and queer studies, exploring their intersection as a productive interdisciplinary approach for analyzing representations of old age and aging, as well as for proposing re-conceptualizations of life-course narratives. I will focus in particular on the concept of “queering time,” referring to scholars such as J. Jack Halberstam and Dustin Goltz, and examine the challenges it brings to linear life narratives and to heteronormative constructions of the life course. At the same time, I want to show that approaches by age-studies scholars like Margaret Gullette and Anita Wohlmann, who pay particular attention to the power of cultural discourse, enrich queer studies, revealing how frequently tropes of linear progress, successful aging, and particular age roles play into representations of non-normative sexualities.

To illustrate how concepts of queer studies and age/aging studies can effectively work together, I will draw on examples from the much-acclaimed Amazon TV-series *Transparent* (2014), a show that focuses on the seventy-year old transgender protagonist Maura, her coming out and her transition, but also on family constellations, identity narratives, cultural heritage, and conceptualizations of time and aging. Through my analysis, I hope to demonstrate how interdisciplinary approaches can successfully

be employed to scrutinize cultural constructions of old age/aging and to contribute significant new perspectives to discourses of age/aging, thus underlining the central importance of literary and cultural studies for the wide field of gerontology.

In July 2016, **Linda Hess** completed and defended her Ph.D. at the University of Muenster in Germany, where she is also a lecturer, and where she currently holds a post-doc position. Her Ph.D. project focuses on Queer Aging and Temporality in North American Fiction. Her main areas of research and teaching are Queer Studies, Aging Studies, and Gender Studies. More recently, she has become interested in the field of life writing/autobiographical narratives.

PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

📅 *Throughout the conference*
🏠 *Foyer, Hörsaalzentrum*
Medical University of Graz
Auenbruggerplatz 15, 8036 Graz

Alex Rotas

Documenting the active aging body: from elite athletes to the less mobile

Alex Rotas takes photographs of older men and women, concentrating on the 60 through 100 year old age groups, who are still competing in national and international events in the sport they love. Her photos of masters track & field athletes have won awards for changing popular perceptions of the aging body as well as for challenging the idea that competitive sport is a domain belonging to young people. This small exhibition presents a selection of her work documenting master athletes and skydivers.

Also included are some of her photographs from the RETirement in ACTion study (REACT). Led by the University of Bath, REACT is a UK-wide research study aimed at adults of 65+ who are at the other end of the physical spectrum to the elite sportsmen and women she usually documents. REACT targets those at risk of mobility-related disability, recruiting them to attend group activity sessions designed with social engagement and enjoyment as a priority.



Alex Rotas, born in 1949, also challenges popular narratives about aging through getting older herself! She is a 2017 Ambassador for England Athletics' national campaign, #RunTogether, an initiative aimed at encouraging more people of every age to start running by discovering the physical and social benefits of running in a group.

SOCIAL PROGRAM

Photography Exhibition by Alex Rotas

- 📅 *Throughout the conference*
- 🏠 *Foyer, Hörsaalzentrum*
Medical University of Graz
Auenbruggerplatz 15, 8036 Graz

Screening: Excerpts from Piano Lessons by Marlene Goldman

- 📅 *Thursday, April 27, 2017 | 18:00–20:00*
- 🏠 *Foyer, Hörsaalzentrum*
Medical University of Graz
Auenbruggerplatz 15, 8036 Graz

Student Dinner (co-hosted by ACT and GUSEGG)

- 📅 *Friday, April 28, 2017 | 19:30–21:00*
- 🏠 *Don Roberto*
Elisabethstraße 19, 8010 Graz

Conference Reception

- 📅 *Saturday, April 29, 2017 | 19:00–21:00*
- 🏠 *City Hall, Main Square*
Hauptplatz 1, 8010 Graz

City Tour

- 📅 *Sunday, April 30, 2017 | 13:30–15:30*
- 🏠 *Start: Main Square Graz*

Farewell Dinner

- 📅 *Sunday, April 30, 2017 | 17:00*
- 🏠 *Glöckl Bräu*
Glockenspielplatz 2-3, 8010 Graz

USEFUL INFORMATION

- ▶ Our conference organization staff and our student helpers are more than happy to answer any questions or queries you might have. They are easily identifiable in their AgingGraz2017 T-shirts!
- ▶ In your conference bag, you will find a sheet with a campus map and a list of useful phone numbers.
- ▶ Please also find enclosed a city map, info on the University of Graz, a conference program, and other informational and promotional material.
- ▶ WLAN at Hörsaalzentrum: at the Hörsaalzentrum, you can use one of the two user accounts with their corresponding passwords.
Account 1 User: omgast0040 PW: abcd1234
Account 2 User: omgast0041 PW: 1234asdf
- ▶ Photo/Video release form: Please note that throughout the conference we will be taking photos and videos to be used as promotional material and for other activities in the future. Please fill in the list with your personal data at the registration desk in case you disagree with the taking and use of photographs/videos of yourself.
- ▶ Please note that smoking is forbidden on UniMed campus except in marked areas (one of them is right across the street from the Hörsaalzentrum!).

List of Telephone Numbers

conference organization

Conference organizers	
(24 hrs, in case of emergencies!)	+43 (0)664/ 85 65 118
	+43 (0)669/ 177 37 146
International Relations Office	
at the University of Graz	+43 (0)316/ 380-1249

emergency numbers

Fire Department	122
Police	133
Ambulance	144
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www.flughafen-graz.at/en/terminal/anreise-parken/bus-bahn.html

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Bus 41, 64 (E), Tram: 7

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Zu den 3 goldenen Kugeln LKH

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Kostes

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Café Schanzl

Leonhardplatz 4, 8010 Graz

LKH Kern Café

Stiftingtalstraße 30, 8010 Graz

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www.graz.at/cms/ziel/5004265/EN/

Graz by train and bus:

www.oebb.at/en/

Graz by plane:

www.flughafen-graz.at/en/home.html

Buses and trams:

[www.graztourismus.at/en/travel-and-transport/
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